Erap files travel plea with court he won't recognize

Story on PAGE A2

Abaya says military 'apprised' of situation

By TJ Burgonio

CERTAIN individuals have approached the Armed Forces chief of staff to "apprise" him of the military's role should the standoff over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. lead to political unrest.

ABAYA/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Spare my family, Wimpy, COA auditor appeals

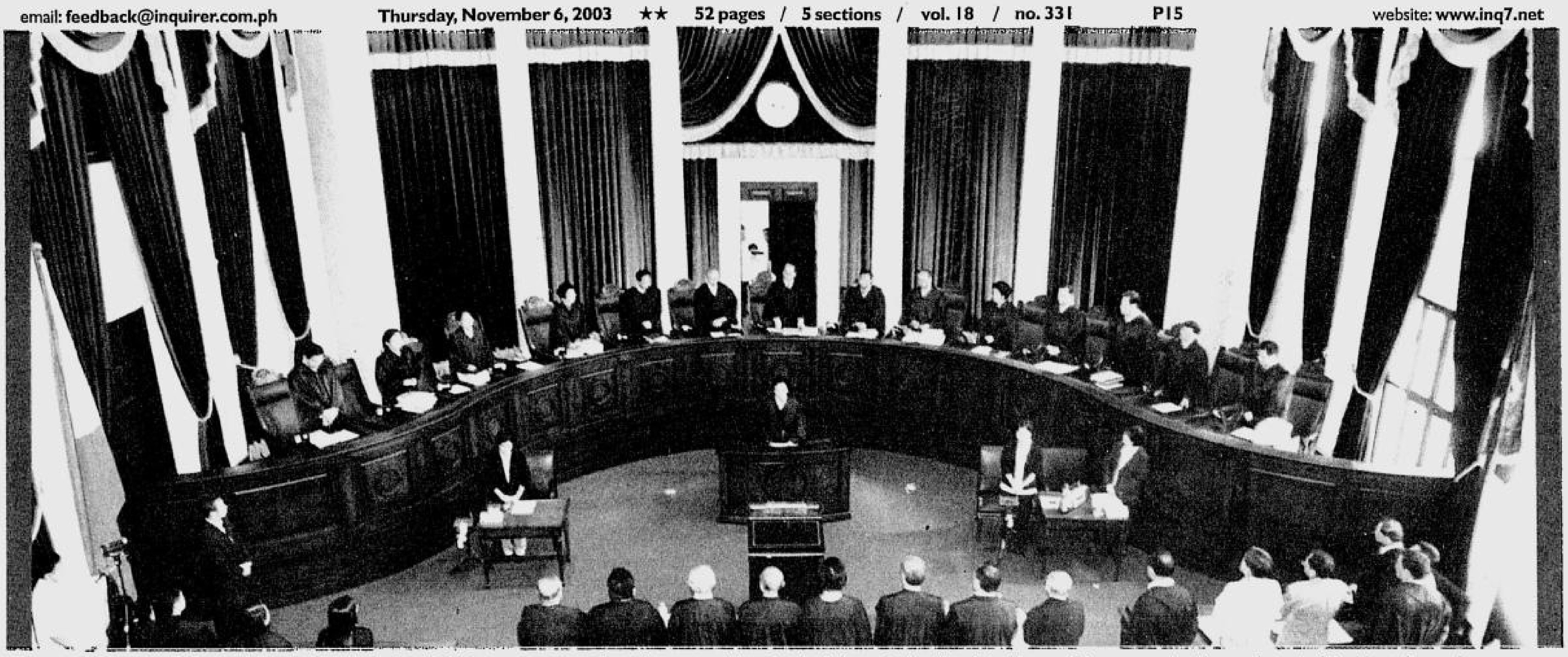
By Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana

"SPARE my family from personal attacks," pleaded the auditor of the Commission on Audit who drafted the controversial Judiciary Development Fund report.

Cecilia Caga-anan yesterday asked

SPARE/ A11

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, November 6, 2003 ★★ 52 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 331 P15 website: www.inq7.net



THE SUPREME Court, minus Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., hears arguments from the country's best legal minds on the legality of the House of Representatives' impeachment of Davide at the newly refurbished Session Hall, a *casus belli* in the critical standoff between the country's top judge and a group of recalcitrant legislators.

ERIK ARAZAS

A delicate balancing act

Ex-Concom member says impeachment complaint defective

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PRO-IMPEACHMENT protesters are blocked by police on T.M. Kalaw Street on their march to the Supreme Court. The group accuses the Chief Justice of pocketing funds for court employees.

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court will have to exercise a delicate balancing act in resolving the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. after three of the six amici curiae (friends of the court) urged the tribunal yesterday to refrain from ruling on the highly divisive issue. *(See related story.)*

Nothing was resolved after almost eight hours of oral arguments before the Supreme Court, which started at past 10 a.m. and ended at 7 last night. Davide inhibited himself from the hearing, which will continue today and may be extended from day to day until terminated.

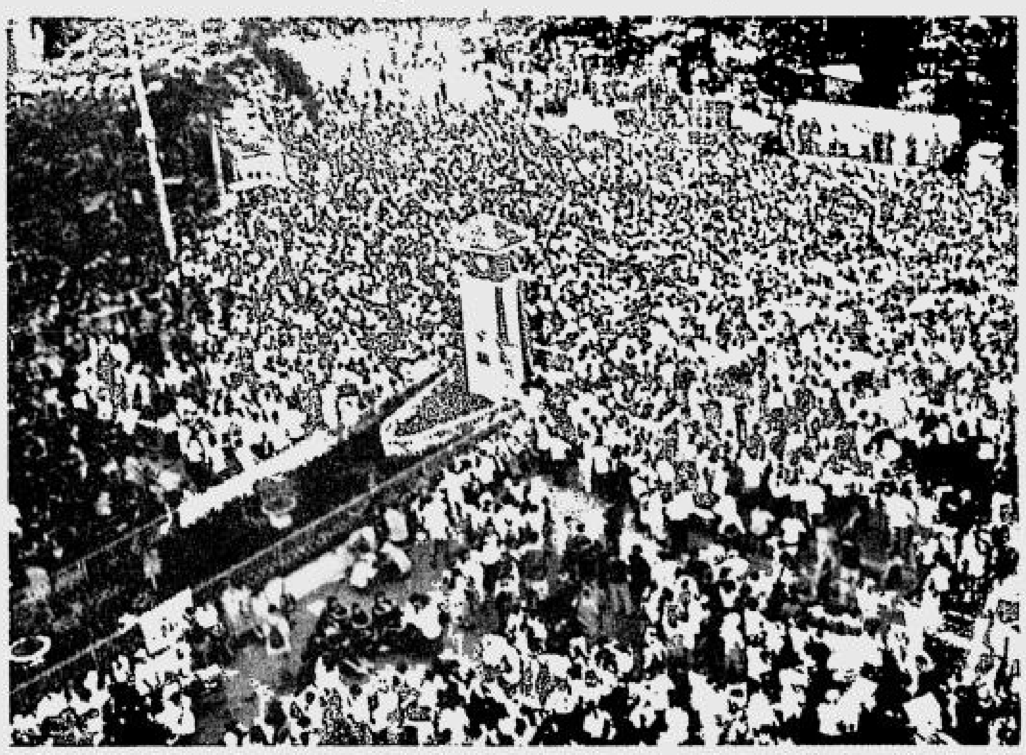
A member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, however, said the filing of the second impeachment complaint was patently defective from the start.

Speaking as a friend of the court, Regalado Maambong told 14 justices of the high court that the Senate was barred from receiving the Articles of Impeachment because the members of the House of Representatives, who signed the impeachment complaint, filed the wrong resolution.

Another friend of the court, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, urged the Supreme Court not to rule yet on the constitutionality of the impeachment complaint because there was a chance that the complaint could still be quashed in Congress.

Salonga made this appeal as three other friends of the court said that the tribunal had jurisdiction over the case and that the second complaint was unconstitutional. Constitutional expert Fr. Joaquin Bernas SJ even said the tribunal had a "duty" to rule on the issue.

A DELICATE/ A10



SOME 50,000 Cebuanos mass at the Fuente Osmeña Rotunda to show solidarity with embattled native son Chief Justice Hilario Davide. Former President Corazon Aquino attended the rally described by police as the biggest in Cebu City since the height of the protests against then President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

RUDOLPH ALCAZAREN

Tempers rise in rallies; cops not taking chances

By Leila L. Salaverria
Metro

TEMPERS flared in the streets of Manila yesterday as supporters and opponents of the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. demonstrated outside the Supreme Court when the tribunal began hearing petitions seeking to stop the move by the House of Representatives.

Followers of ousted President Joseph Estrada also scuffled with policemen who tried to block their march on the Supreme Court to express their support to the impeachment complaint filed by lawmakers loyal to businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a former Marcos crony.

The impeachment complaint has polarized the country along

TEMPERS/ A20

High court lacks authority, say 2 friends of the tribunal

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza and former Supreme Court Justice Hugo Gutierrez Jr. said the tribunal had no authority to intrude into issues involving impeachment which, they claimed, fell within the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress .

Like former Senate President Jovito Salonga, Mendoza and Gutierrez urged the tribunal to refrain from ruling on the highly divisive issue.

All three, along with former Supreme Court Justice Florence Regalado and former Constitutional Commissioners Regalado

HIGH/ A10

Palace releases draft of tripartite covenant

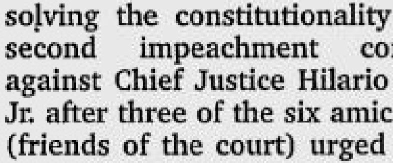
By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday released copies of the seven-page draft tripartite coveniant proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to end the crisis over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

If signed by leaders of the three branches of the government, the covenant would compel the House of Representatives to withdraw the impeachment complaint against Davide and to settle for a continuing investigation on the Judiciary Development Fund by its committee on justice.

The covenant, which defines itself as the "just and proper solution" to the crisis, also states that the Commission on Audit has the authority to audit the books of all government agencies, and that it

PALACE/ A11


MASAYA NAMAN PALA ANG ATING MGA A-MI-KEI

From 'masturbation' to pronunciation

By Philip Tubeza

THE ORAL arguments before the Supreme Court yesterday on the constitutionality of the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had its light moments.

A statement about "political masturbation" and the court's "ruling" on the correct pronunciation of *amici* in *amici curiae* (plural of *amicus curiae* which literally means friends of the court) lightened up the mood in what was otherwise a serious discussion on an issue that

FROM/ A10

Pro-impeachment bloc to junk Palace deal

By Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

THE LAWMAKERS who impeached Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday bristled at the proposed covenant to end the impasse, saying it was a "conspiracy" among the three branches of government to circumvent the Constitution.

They said they would reject the covenant and would prove wrong Speaker Jose de Venecia, who had declared that the impasse would be over in 72 hours. They also said they would transmit the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate regardless of how the Supreme Court would rule on the legality of the second impeachment complaint against Davide.

Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, spokesperson of the Nationalist People's Coalition that spearheaded the impeachment, said the high court would not be able

PRO-IMPEACHMENT/ A11

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/06/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

Erap faces Sandigan dilemma

Plea for ailing knees falls on court he won't recognize

By Armand N. Nocum

JAILED ex-President Joseph Estrada may have painted himself into a corner.

He has asked the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court to allow him to travel to the United States for knee replacement surgery. But he is asking this of a court whose authority he has consistently refused to recognize.

Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro pointed to this dilemma facing the court and the ousted ex-President as defense and prosecution lawyers traded arguments yesterday at a hearing on Estrada's petition to be allowed to travel to the United States for knee replacement surgery.

"The problem with the accused is that he is asking for the motion [to travel] without recognizing the jurisdiction of the court. He is not even willing to enter into any commitment with the court," said De Castro.

She explained that as a rule, the court grants an accused the authority to travel abroad but imposes conditions on such travel.

"In this case, the movant does not even recognize the jurisdiction of the court so how can we impose conditions on him?" she said.

De Castro was supported in this view by Presiding Justice Minita V. Chico-Nazario and Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval.

Sandoval said that Estrada's biggest problem was his "consistent attitude" not to recognize the authority of the court over him, insisting that he was still the President of the Philippines.

In an apparent legal ploy, Estrada on Feb. 27, 2002 dismissed all his lawyers and attacked the Sandiganbayan justices, calling "farcical proceedings" his trial on the capital offense of plunder.

But facing what his doctors claim to be inevitable paralysis of his lower body because of his knee problem, the disgraced ex-President on Wednesday petitioned the court to reverse an earlier ruling rejecting his request to be allowed to seek treatment abroad.

During yesterday's two-hour hearing, Nazario said Estrada had gone overboard with his demands.

"He wants to have everything. He wants to have his cake and eat it too. He wants to have everything going for him," said Nazario, noting that apart from wanting to be allowed to go abroad, Estrada now wants to be allowed to live at his San Juan home while undergoing daily therapy.

The justice reminded Estrada that as an accused for plunder and graft charges, there were "limitations" imposed on his freedom and basic rights.

Noel Malaya, one of Estrada's court-appointed counsels, claimed that Estrada was in a "class of his own" and was entitled to other privileges denied other people facing charges in court.

But Nazario pointed out the dangers of the court allowing itself to be swayed by appeals to "humanitarian consideration."

To defense lawyer Manuel Pamaran's argument that Estrada was entitled to his right as a patient to be operated by the doctor of his choice, Nazario said the court has never objected to Estrada undergoing a knee replacement operation.

But the court only asked that the operation be done in the Philippines, suggesting that Estrada's choice, Dr. Christopher Mow of the Stanford Medical Center in California, be brought to the country to perform it.

Faced with a virtual wall of opposition from the Sandiganbayan justices and state prosecutors led by Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, Estrada's lawyers again raised the bogey of political instability, an apparent suggestion that Estrada's lumpen supporters could stage destabilizing protest actions.

"The jittery situation caused by the unstable political climate cries for reconciliation. The exercise of humanity on the part of the court may result in a peaceful and pleasant climate," said Pamaran, one of Estrada's court-appointed lawyers who is a former Sandiganbayan justice.

Hostage survivor turns out to be Pinoy, not Indon

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE 19-YEAR-OLD hostage who claimed to have escaped from unidentified gunmen who abducted him and five others from a resort in Sabah last month is a Filipino after all, not Indonesian or Malaysian as he had claimed earlier.

Deputy Director Gen. Virtus Gil, Philippine National Police chief for operations, said that Nonoy Alcosir admitted during interrogation that he had pretended to be an Indonesian Muslim so residents of the predominantly Islamic community in Tawi-Tawi would help him.

"He's Filipino, a Visayan, actually," Gil told reporters yesterday.

Military interrogators at the Southern Command have also established that Arcosil was born to Filipino parents in Zamboanga del Norte.

It was not clear why Alcosir kept his cover even after he was found in Tawi-Tawi and placed under government custody. Shortly before he was questioned by authorities, he even spoke through an interpreter at a local radio station.

Arcosil and five other resort workers were seized by gunmen from the Borneo Eco-farm Paradise Resort in Sabah on Oct. 5.

Alcosir's admission of being a Filipino was the latest twist surrounding his Oct. 27 supposed escape during a brief firefight between his abductors and military and police operatives in Barangay Lagayas on Languyan Island.

Initially, Alcosir had told investigators that the other hostages, including his parents Amay and Arsad, were shot to death by the kidnappers in Sitio Lagayas, Panglima Sugala after the owners of the Malaysian resort refused to pay ransom.

Soldiers, however, failed to find any bodies in the area.

"Until we saw the bodies," Gil said, "our assumption is that they're still alive."

Senior military officials also took back their announcement of the killings of the other hostages after ground troops failed to find the bodies.

Military interrogators have also established that Arcosir's parents are in Sabah, Malaysia, and were not among those abducted from the resort, as the young Arkosil had claimed.

Gil said authorities also doubt Alcosir's version that he escaped after the kidnappers told him and his fellow kidnap victims to undress and run for their lives.

The PNP, he said, was still trying to straighten out certain details about the abduction and the purported firefight from the ongoing debriefing of Alcosir. *With report from TJ Burgonio*

Kazakhstan president coming

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES will seek oil shipments and help in the lobbying for an observer status at the Organization of the Islamic Conference from Kazakh President Nursultan Nazabayev, who will make a state visit to the country on Nov. 10 to 12.

The Department of Foreign Affairs' public information office said Malacañang is finalizing the itinerary of the 63-year-old Kazakh leader's visit. Nazarbayev's advance party arrived in the country last Oct. 31.

A DFA official told reporters that Kazakhstan, being a member of the OIC's influential Central Asian bloc, "could root for us (the Philippines) in our application for observer status."

Last month, the OIC junked the Philippines' application, saying the Moro National Liberation Front should represent Filipino Muslims at the organization. But despite this setback, the Philippines is determined to secure observer status.

The DFA official said the country would also seek oil shipments from Kazakhstan, which is rich in petroleum and natural gas. The Kazakh government's aid will also be sought in joint oil explorations.

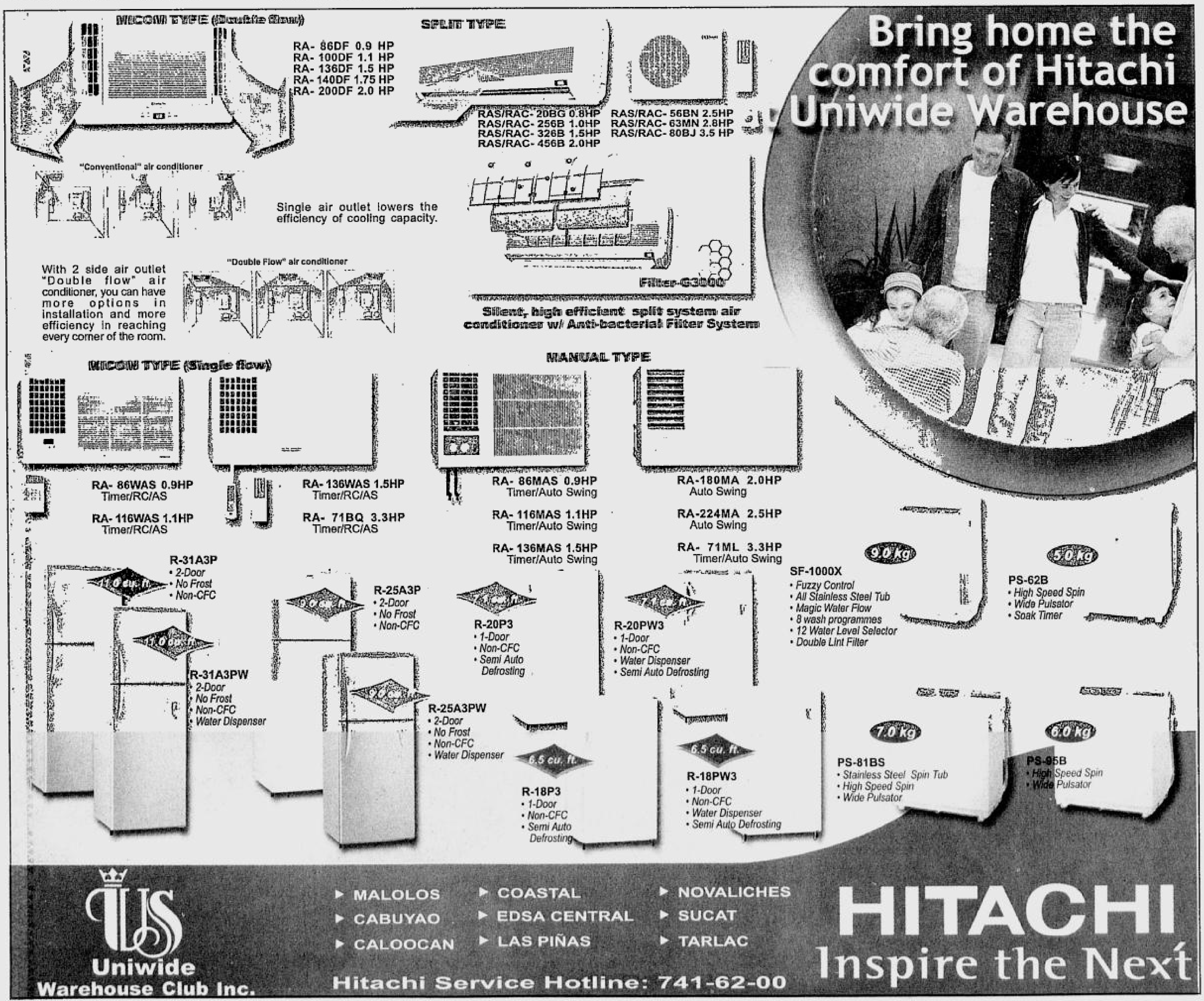
Both countries, being allies of the United States, are also expected to make a common stand against terrorism. The US has been pouring economic assistance to the Central Asian republic since its independence in 1991 following the break up of the Soviet Union.

Abu gunrunner deported to US

A FILIPINO-American suspected of having supplied arms to the Abu Sayyaf has been arrested and hastily deported to the United States.

Victor Moore Infante, 34, was whisked off on board a chartered flight to Guam on Tuesday night, escorted by US marshals en route to the US mainland.

Immigration commissioner Andrea Domingo said in a statement that the suspect was arrested on Monday in Zamboanga City by a team composed of immigration agents and Marines. *Martin Marfil*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RAS/RAC- 326B 1.5HP
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RA- 71BQ 3.3HP Timer/RC/AS
MANUAL TYPE
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RA- 116MAS 1.1HP Timer/Auto Swing
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Imelda faces arrest for extended trip

IMELDA Marcos: Overdue

FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos, famous for her enormous shoe collection and extravagant shopping sprees, faces arrest when she returns to the country after staying away longer than she was allowed, an official said.

Marcos, facing dozens of criminal charges and civil lawsuits over allegations that she and late President Ferdinand Marcos salted away more than $5 billion during two decades in power, was allowed to leave last month for the United States and Europe on medical and religious grounds.

But Marcos had violated a court order that granted her only 30 days leave, Ruben Carranza, a senior officer of the state agency trying to track down the Marcos wealth, said yesterday.

She left on Oct. 5 and had been due to return last Sunday.

"The courts could now order her arrest," Carranza told Reuters, saying the anti-graft court had rejected her lawyers' request for an extended visit to London until Nov. 12.

"She is actually out on bail and the court can easily cancel her bail bond but we'll discuss our next move with the Office of the Ombudsman, which is handling the anti-graft cases."

He said Marcos's trip to Britain could be related to transactions involving the family's wealth because some Marcos deposits had been found to be under the name of a London-based associate.

In September, Marcos's lawyers had asked two divisions of an anti-graft court to allow her to see her doctor in United States and go to pilgrimage sites in France, Italy and Portugal for 30 days.

The government has been fighting an uphill legal battle to recover $700 million in funds in an escrow account at the Philippine National Bank that government investigators say was taken during Marcos's presidency.

Ferdinand Marcos was forced from power in 1986 by a popular uprising. He died in exile in Hawaii in 1989. *Reuters*

PCGG can't find Marcos residence

By Alcuin Papa

HAS former First Lady Imelda Marcos sold her plush condominium unit at the Pacific Plaza along Ayala Avenue in Makati City?

The Presidential Commission on Good Government wants to know after court documents sent to her condo unit were sent back undelivered.

The PCGG said yesterday that it could not determine now the residence of the former First Lady.

But a source close to Marcos said the former First Lady has not moved out of her Pacific Plaza condo unit.

PCGG records showed that Supreme Court clerk of court Luzviminda Puno wrote the PCGG, Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, the Sandiganbayan and lawyers of Marcos and her co-accused Jose Conrado Benitez and Gilbert Dulay to say that documents connected with two criminal cases against the accused were returned undelivered.

In particular, Puno was referring to a resolution dated last April 1 addressed to Marcos which "was returned unserved with the notation "unserved, party transferred, no forwarding address." The document was addressed to Marcos at Unit 34-B, 34th floor, Pacific Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

The PCGG only found out last Oct. 30 that the resolution was returned without having been delivered.

The documents from the Supreme Court are in connection with two criminal cases filed against Marcos for alleged malversation of funds of the defunct Ministry of Human Settlements which she formerly headed.

Brat pack: We're no errand boys of NPC

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GROUP of second-generation politicians—referred to as the "brat pack"—who railroaded the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide allegedly under the direction of their seniors have denied that they are mere "errand boys of our party elders."

Neither are Camarines Sur Rep. Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebella and Rizal Rep. John Michael "Jack" Duavit bothered by the negative connotations of the "brat pack" tag as they say they believe in their "cause."

"No, I'm not affected by it. As a public official, I listen to constructive criticism. If it's not constructive, I simply ignore it," said Fuentebella.

At 28, Fuentebella is the youngest district representative of the 12th Congress, while Rep. Joel Villanueva of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption, who also signed the complaint, is the youngest party-list member at 26. Villanueva is the son of Eddie Villanueva, the leader of the Jesus is Lord charismatic sect.

Many of the 93 legislators who signed the impeachment complaint against Davide are members of the Nationalist People's Coalition which was founded by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Cojuangco is being tagged as the mastermind of the impeachment move, allegedly to revenge himself on the Davide court for ruling against him on the coco levy case and to ensure favorable treatment of other cases against him pending before the Supreme Court.

Duavit explained that it was "untainted idealism" and a "burning desire" to know the truth that convinced him to participate in the impeachment of Davide.

"This [impeachment] was not handed down from the top leadership of the NPC. In fact, my father who is now retired advised me against signing it. Do you think that I would go against the will of my father just to follow the supposed wishes of Ambassador Cojuangco?" he asked.

Duavit said that it was only natural for Fuentebella, whom he called the "Benjamin of the House," and Rep. Gilberto Teodoro Jr., the supposed "favorite" nephew of Cojuangco, to seek initial support for the impeachment complaint they authored from their "*barkadas* (gangmates)" in the House.

He said that even Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri of the popular "Spice Boys" of the 11th and 12th Congress, went against his own father, and had in fact some heated exchanges with him regarding his decision to support the impeachment.

Fuentebella, the son of former House speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, insisted that neither he nor his family had a vested interest in the campaign to impeach Davide.

"I always keep an open mind and an open heart," he said, adding that it was unfair for the media and others to impute ill motives on him.

Informed that most Bicol political leaders were disowning him because they believed that Davide was innocent, Fuentebella claimed he filed the case because the people of Naga City were the ones who called for it.

"With respect to Bicol leaders, that's a local problem. This is a democracy so they are free to speak up," he said.

Fuentebella claimed to have consulted with his constituents after Congress adjourned and said they all supported his position.

"They're the ones who wanted me to pursue this. The people of Naga were the ones conducting the rally questioning the JDF [Judiciary Development Fund]," he said.

Fuentebella stressed that he did not take offense at the statement of Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales condemning the "brat pack" or at the INQUIRER's supposedly negative reports about him.

Pro-Danding Lakas solons may shift support to FPJ

MOST of the House legislators from the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats who have been pushing for the presidential candidacy of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco may shift their support to movie star Fernando Poe Jr. who is expected to make an announcement soon, said Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras.

Fifty out of 80 Lakas representatives, including Paras, have said they will not be supporting the party's standard-bearer, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Paras said some of the 50 have indicated they would go for Poe after it appeared that Cojuangco was out of the race.

"It seems that Danding is definitely not running anymore," Paras said.

He said he was told by an opposition source that in a meeting of opposition leaders yesterday it was announced that Poe would announce his candidacy in a "week's time."

The source said that Poe's running mate will be Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda who recently broke away from Lakas to turn "independent."

"As a Lakas member, I see a Poe-Legarda tandem as a very formidable one. We see in Poe a formidable challenger who is devoid of controversy," Paras said.

Of the 50, those who will not go for Poe might end up supporting former senator and education secretary Raul Roco, Paras said.

"For sure, we are not going to support a Macapagal candidacy," he said.

Asked why his group cannot support Ms Macapagal, Paras said they have been talking to ordinary people like tricycle drivers and vendors who expressed their "distaste" for the President.

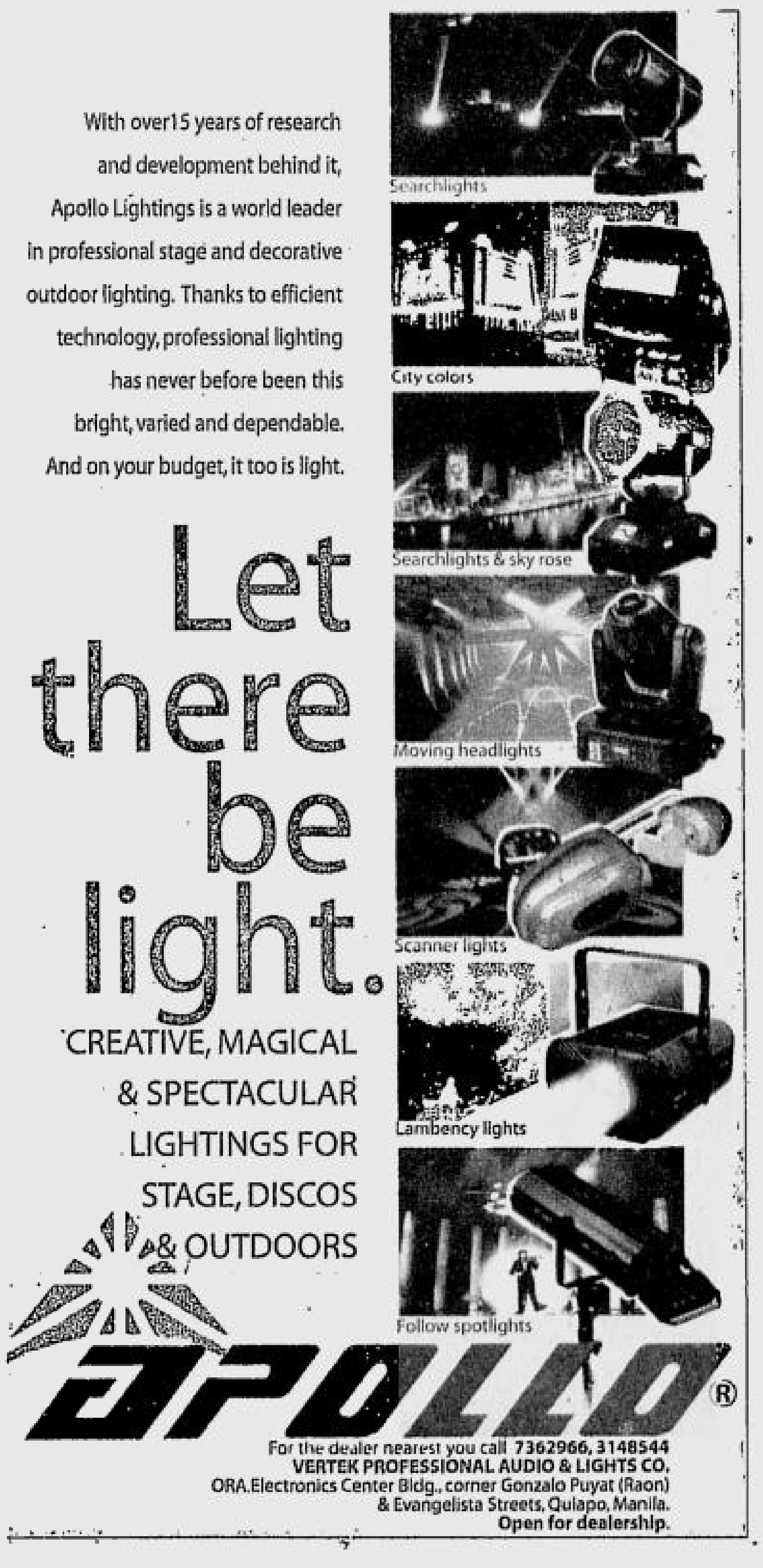
Besides, he said they did not like the idea of the President "breaking her promise" not to run in 2004. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Flower congress kicks off tomorrow

FLORICULTURE industry experts tackle ways to boost domestic industry and export growth tomorrow during the 8th Philippine Floriculture Congress which will be keynoted by Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

The first time to be held in Metro Manila with a grand floriculture fair and exhibit, the 8th Philippine Floriculture Congress is up to Nov. 8. The 8th PFC Commercial Fair and Trade Exhibit will be from Nov. 7 to 16 at the Orchidarium Park on the Quezon City Hall grounds.

The congress is organized by the Federation of Cutflower and Ornamental Plant Growers of the Philippines Inc. It will be held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management Convention Hall on Visayas Avenue, corner Elliptical Circle, Quezon City. It covers the theme Business Discipline for Globalization.



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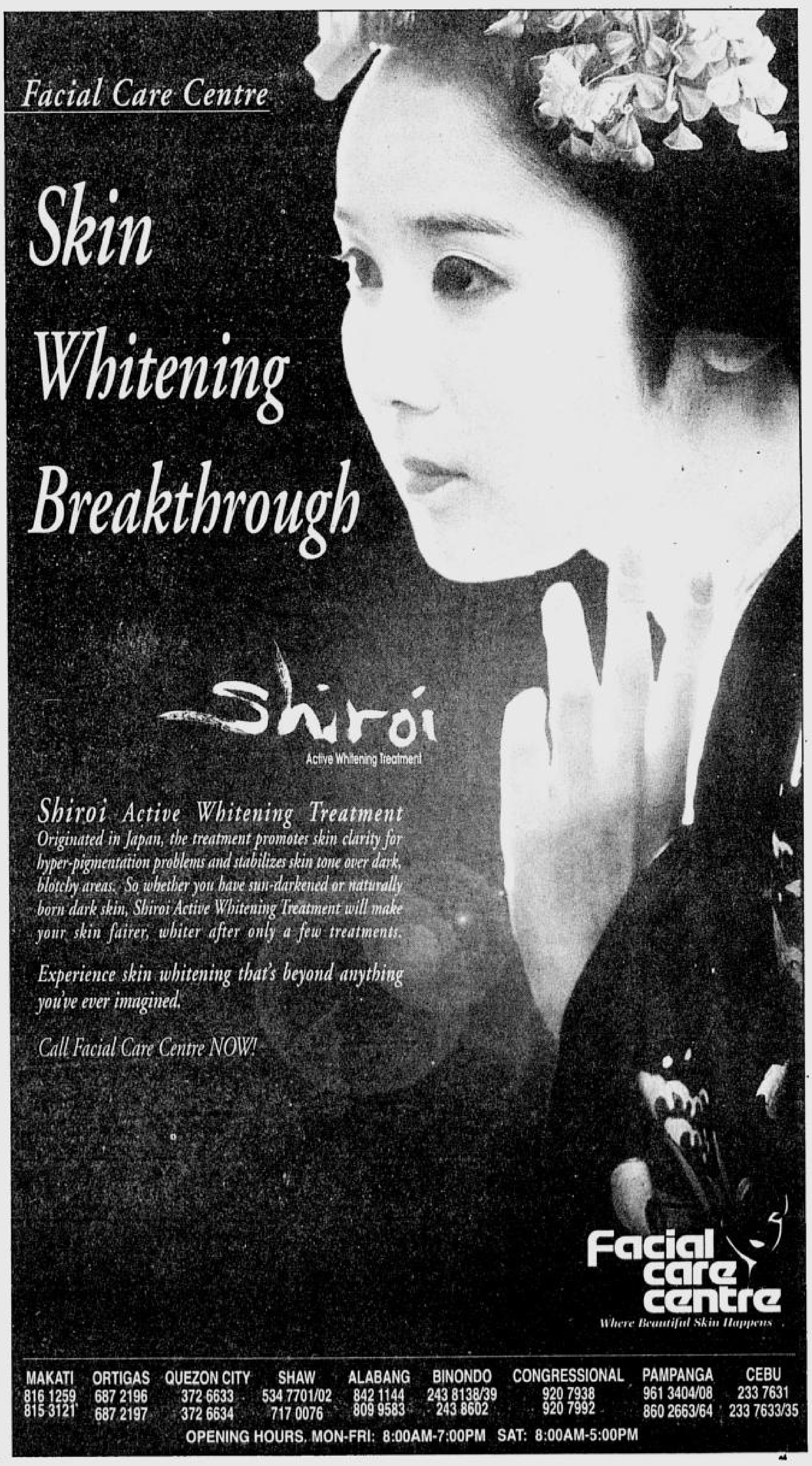

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OPENING HOURS. MON-FRI: 8:00AM-7:00PM SAT: 8:00AM-5:00PM

Regional conference honors Dr. Raul G. Fores with Lifetime Achievement Award

Philippine Secretary of Health, Manuel Dayrit, presented the award to Dr. Fores at the gala dinner of the Hospital Management Asia (HMA) Conference in Manila on October 21, 2003.

Assisting the Secretary on stage were Karen Timmons, CEO of Joint Commission International, Steve Thompson, CEO of Johns Hopkins International and Dr. Tiburcio Macias, President of the Philippine Hospital Association. In the audience were over 300 senior hospital managers from 103 hospitals around the region who attended the HMA conference.

The Lifetime Achievement was given to Dr. Fores for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of health care in the Philippines and his devotion to medical care for the underprivileged.

Hospital Management Asia 2003
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Dr. Raul G. Fores accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award to a standing ovation from the delegates. L to R are: Steven Thompson, CEO of Johns Hopkins International; Karen Timmons, CEO of Joint Commission International; Hon. Manuel Dayrit, Philippine Secretary of Health and Dr. Fores, President and Medical Director of Makati Medical Center

The HMA Lifetime Achievement Citation for Dr. Raul G. Fores

The citation for Dr. Fores was read by two of the gurus who presented at the event, Mr. Paul van Ostenberg, Executive Director Accreditation of Joint Co mmission International and Dr. Momar Ndiaye, Director of the Office of International Studies and Programs, Illinois State University. In full it reads:

Our Lifetime awardee has distinguished himself as a physician and a surgeon, a highly successful hospital entrepreneur and manager and a civic leader in the service of the poor. He graduated from the University Of Santo Tomas College of Medicine in 1958 and underwent Fellowship in general surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 1959 to 1961.

He was one of the founders, the principal organizer and currently President, and Medical Director of a hospital that he nurtured to become an institution in the Philippines. Since 1974 the 600 bed facility in the country's premier business district has shown an unbroken record of substantial charity work for the poor - matched by an unbroken profit record over the last 29 years. Clearly our awardee believes in "doing good and doing well."

Our awardee not only has one of the most successful medical practices at the hospital he heads, he has found time to be involved in numerous professional and civic activities. He is currently a member, usually in a very senior capacity in no less that 20 civic and professional organizations including

- o President, Philippine Hospital Association, Metro-Manila Chapter,
- o Member, Archdiocesan Commission for Health Care Ministry of the Archdiocese of Manila
- o Chairman, Technical Panel for Health Profession Education, Commission on Higher Education
- o Member, Association of Southeast Asia Surgeons
- o Member, Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, International College of Surgeons
- o Past Chairman, Board of Medicine, Philippine Professional Regulation Commission.

For his charitable works, he has received numerous awards and citations from social and charitable foundations in the Philippines like: *Alay-Puso, Tahanang Walang Hagdan,* World Vision Philippines, *Bukas Palad, Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko and Damayan.*

Our awardee has received other prestigious awards: In 1999 he was awarded the much-coveted "Outstanding Professional in Medicine" by the Philippine Regulations Commission (PRC).

In January this year he was awarded the Outstanding Catholic Physician Award by the Catholic Physician's Guild of The Philippines.

Just recently earlier this very month, he was awarded "Outstanding Health Provider (Individual)" by the Council of Health Agencies of the Philippines (CHAP).

But perhaps the "award" he treasures the most is a series of letters from Mother Teresa to him, in her handwriting. Her letters to him are filled with blessings for him and the center. In one of her letters, Mother Teresa wrote:

> *My gratitude is my prayer for you,*
> *God Bless You, Mother Teresa*

Ladies and gentlemen, the organization committee honors this year, the well loved and perhaps the best known physician and hospital manager in the Philippines.

And the special lifetime achievement award goes to… Dr. Raul G. Fores.

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Winners All. Winners of the Asian Hospital Management Awards 2003 proudly display their trophies as they pose with Hon. Manuel Dayrit, Philippine Secretary of Health. L to R are: Steven Thompson, Johns Hopkins International; Dr. Ling Moi Liu and Peter Tay of Singapore General Hospital; Benjamin Ong of National University Hospital; Dr. Raul G. Fores, Makati Medical Hospital; Dr. Timothy Low of Gleneagles Hospital; Robert Kuan and Dr. Arsenio Cantos of St. Luke's Medical Center; Karen Timmons, Joint Commission International; and Dr. Tiburcio Macias, Philippine Hospital Association

Makati Medical Center wins two regional quality awards at HMA 2003

An international panel of experts announced the winners of the second annual Asian Hospital Management Awards in Manila, Philippines. Makati Medical Center (MMC) was one of five hospitals in Asia to win a place in the prestigious program that attracted 99 entries from 25 hospitals in 8 countries.

Repeating its win in the 2002 Awards in Bangkok last year, MMC won in the Customer Service Category for the second straight year. In this year's winning project, "Room Service, Fast discharge" MMC staff go to the rooms of company and HMO patients to complete discharge procedures in the patient's room. MMC also won an award in the Technical Service Improvement Category for its 358 service improvement projects in the last 5 years leading to a patient satisfaction rating of 97% where the hospital either met or exceeded expectations.

Strategic Corporate Partner

Two more awards for Makati Medical Center in the Customer Service and Technical Service categories

MMC President and Medical Director Raul G. Fores said "Our job is to make our patients comfortable and get better. We are proud that an international panel thinks we are doing a good job."

Hospital Management Asia 2003 at a glance

Hospital Management Asia, the region's premier learning conference of hospital managers recently held its annual event in Manila. 26 gurus from 9 countries shared worldwide best practices in hospital management with the 344 delegates from 21 countries representing 103 hospitals who attended.

The Eight Categories of the Asian Hospital Management Awards

This year, awards were made in eight categories. These cover the entire range of hospital management, from Customer Service and Community Involvement to Internal Service and Quality Management. The awards recognize outstanding hospital management programs, projects, products and services.

1. Community Service Project
2. Customer Service Project
3. Human Resources Development Project
4. Internal Service Project
5. IT or E-Commerce Project
6. Marketing, PR or Brand Management Project
7. Quality Medical Care Project
8. Technical Service Improvement Project

Members of the selection and judging panels:

- Dr. Robert *Beaudoin*, University of Connecticut
- Mohan *Chellappa*, Johns Hopkins International
- Jocelyn *delos Reyes*, TUV Product Service Philippines
- Prof. Rene T. *Domingo*, Asian Institute of Management
- Lars-Oliver *Huber*, TUV Product Service
- Sheenu *Jhawar*, Staffordshire General Hospital (UK)
- Vivien *Mangalindan*, TQM Services (Philippines)
- Prof. Norman *Moore*, University of Connecticut
- Dr. Momar *Ndiaye*, Illinois State University
- Dr. Alberto *Peña*, Illinois State University
- Ashok *Shah*, Healthtronics (Malaysia)
- Per-Gunnar *Svensson*, International Hospital Federation
- Steven *Thompson*, Johns Hopkins International
- Karen *Timmons*, Joint Commission International
- Paul *van Ostenberg*, Joint Commission International
- Dr. Truong Van *Viet*, Hospital Directors Club (Vietnam)
- *Wong* Mei Chan, MediMedia Asia (Singapore)

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Kids among 20,000 'flying voters' uncovered by computers in ARMM

By Martin Marfil

IT'S STILL months away before the May 2004 elections but there are already indications that next year's polls will be marred by rampant cheating.

Yesterday, the Commission on Elections said that it uncovered about 20,000 double and multiple registrants or so-called flying voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, including some children believed to be nine years old.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said they discovered the potential flying voters through their newly-acquired data-capturing machines which included the photos of the registrants and other pertinent data.

According to Abalos, this showed that the machines were not useless expenditures as they were able to acquire the "biometrics" of the registrants.

"So, instead of receiving their notices and voters' identification cards, these people will be receiving subpoenas," he said.

Abalos said that the original ARMM voters' list had about 1.2 million names. This has been reduced to only 1 million this year.

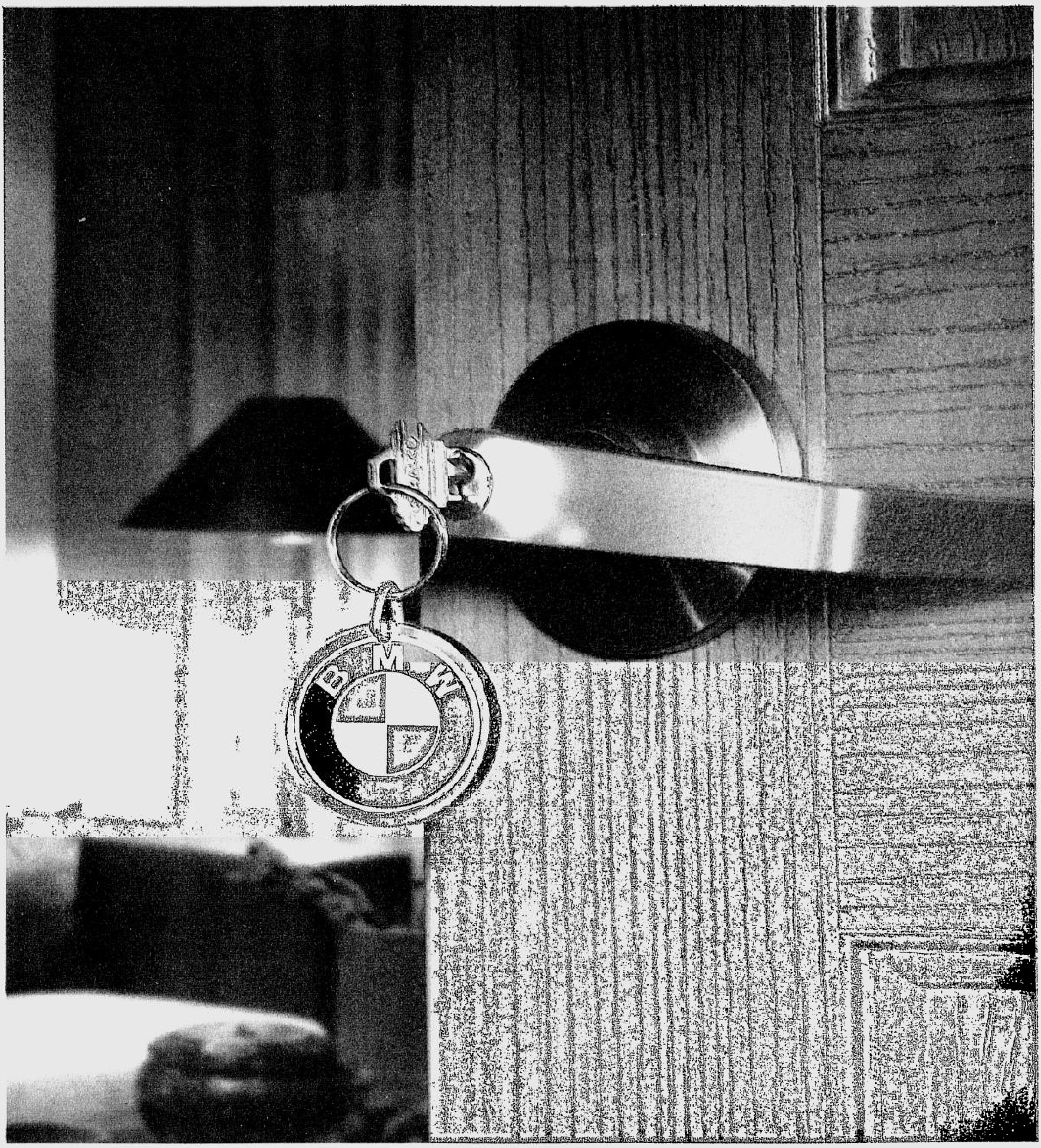
However, he said, this still includes those whom they suspected to be nine or 12- to 13-year-olds who were being passed off by elders as 18-year-olds.

Abalos said the multiple or double registrants will be penalized with a minimum of one year imprisonment. In the cases involving minors, there could be suspended sentences, he said.

On top of these, he said, multiple or double registrants, including the minors, could be disqualified from voting for life.

Comelec plans to speed up the prosecution of those found to have violated the elections laws with the creation of a body tasked to handle the cases.

"I want the cases resolved before the elections," Abalos said.



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Meralco's 16% systems loss charge hit

FORMER Senator Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday scored power distribution giant Manila Electric Co. for charging its 16 percent systems losses to its residential and commercial consumers which is over and above the 9.5 percent allowed by the Anti-Pilferage Law.

Enrile, chairman of the Philippine Consumer Watch Foundation, revealed the overcharging in reaction to Meralco's published explanations and Meralco president Jesus Francisco's letter justifying the P0.55 per kwh systems loss charge instead of only P0.33 per kwh or the 9.5 percent cap under the law.

He said Meralco's overcharging of systems losses was improper and unfair to its consumers.

Elpi Cuna, Meralco corporate communications head, however, branded Enrile's claims as the result of faulty analysis and selective use of available information.

Cuna explained that systems loss incurred in serving various types of customers varies, depending mainly on the service voltage of the customers. A higher systems loss is incurred in serving residential customers who utilize 220 volts vis-à-vis an industrial concern at 115 or 34.5 kv.

This system loss differentiation is reflected in the different levels of system loss charges approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission, he said.

"While residential customers are charged P0.5493 per kwh, industrial and non-industrial service customers being served at 34.5 kv are charged only P0.2273 in system loss charges. The lowest system loss charge is that for IS and NIS customers served at 115 kv which is only P0.0710 per kwh. A summation of the systems loss charges of all Meralco customers would show a recovery at the 9.5 percent allowed by law," Cuna said.

But Enrile said the systems loss differentiation among Meralco's various types of customers exposes residential and industrial consumers to abuses and higher systems loss charges.

He also criticized the ERC for approving Meralco's method of charging systems losses which was improper since the rate system effectively makes residential and commercial customers subsidize the large industrial consumers.

Under Meralco's method, he said, the power cost of industrial consumers is passed on to consumers of their products.

According to Enrile, only Meralco really knows whether their total systems loss collection translate to only 9.5 percent.

Enrile urged the ERC to immediately stop this practice, adopt a more transparent and uniform 9.5 percent cap in the imposition of systems loss charge allowance and refund the excess charges to residential and commercial consumers.

Pinoy killed in shipyard blast in Japan

A FILIPINO overseas worker died while another was injured in an explosion in a shipyard in Japan on Tuesday.

Reports reaching the Department of Labor and Employment identified the fatality as Anthony Batilaran. His wounded companion was identified as Rolly Lagusad.

Sketchy reports described the explosion as an "accident" which happened at a chemical tanker at the Nakatani shipyard where the two were employed as trainees.

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September 24, 2003

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 29, s-2003

TO : ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT-PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, MEDICAL DIRECTORS, ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Renewal of accreditation of approved institutional health care providers within 3 months before expiry

---

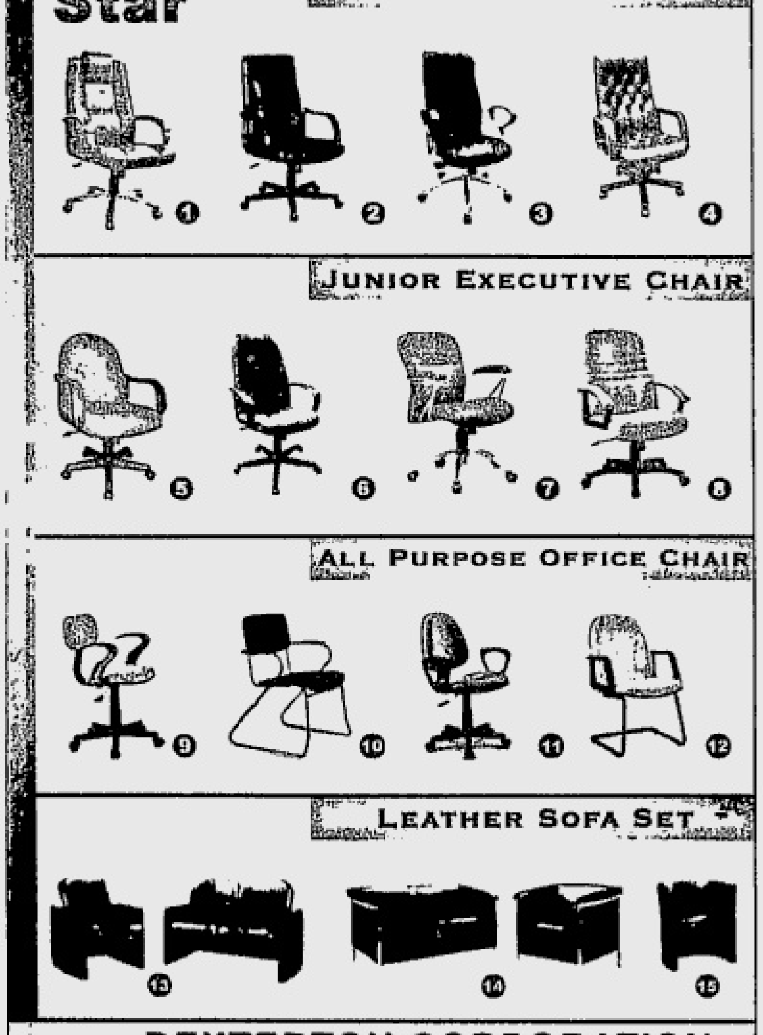
An institutional health care provider which was recently inspected and approved for initial accreditation or re-accreditation and whose validity period will expire within three months should submit a new application and pay the appropriate accreditation fee for the ensuing renewal period of accreditation.

e.g.

	Date of inspection for initial accreditation	Validity period of accreditation for NCR hospitals
NCR hospital	June 30, 2003	October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004

The PhilHealth surveyors may no longer conduct pre-accreditation inspection, instead they may use the previous inspection findings as a basis for approval of the application.

(Sgd.)FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., M.Sc
President and CEO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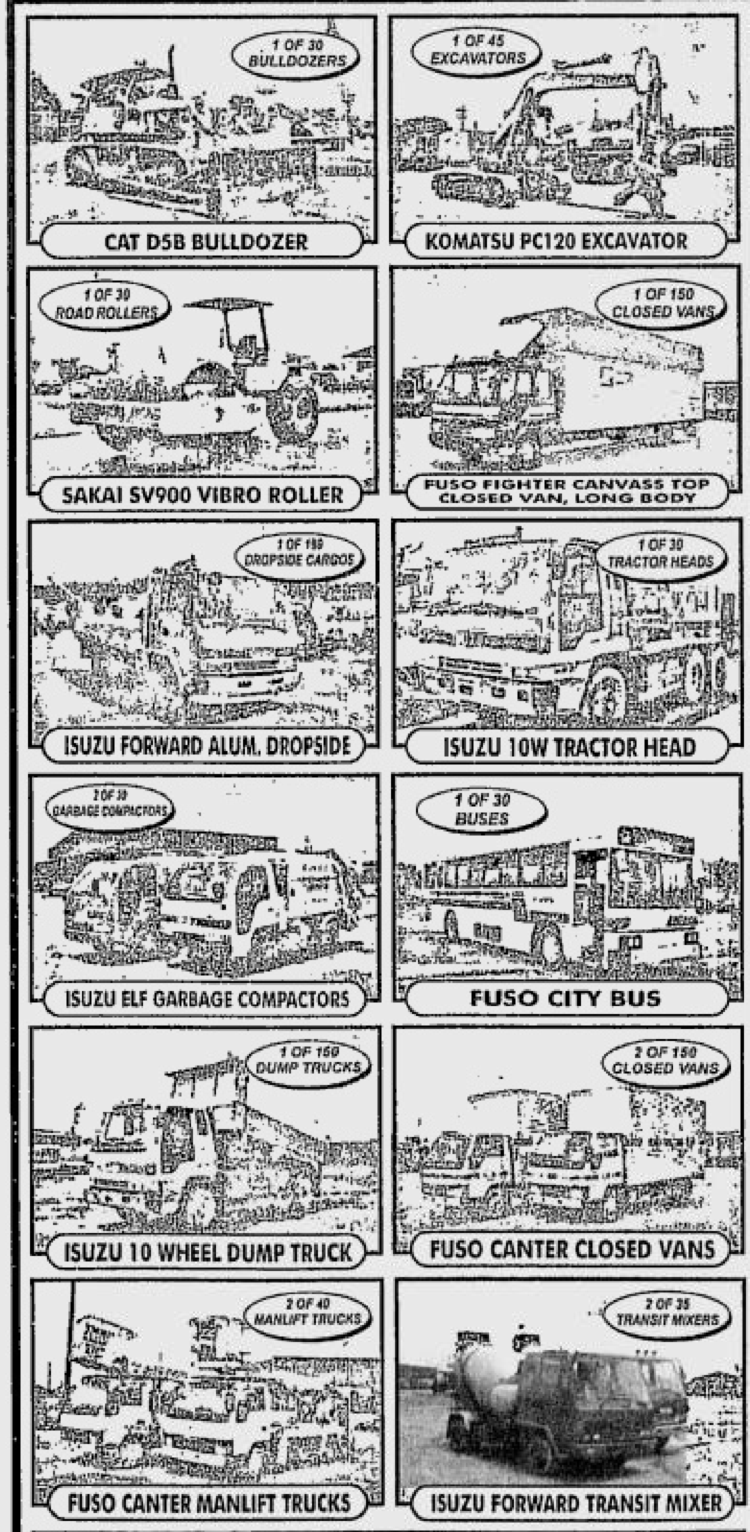
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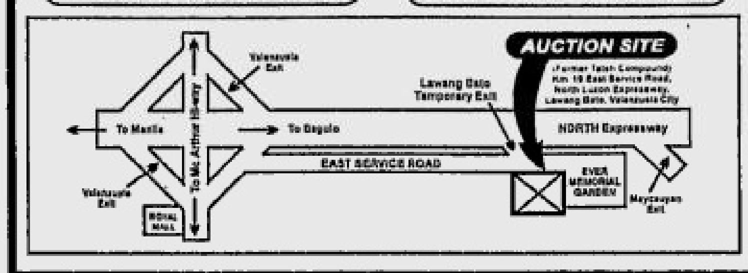
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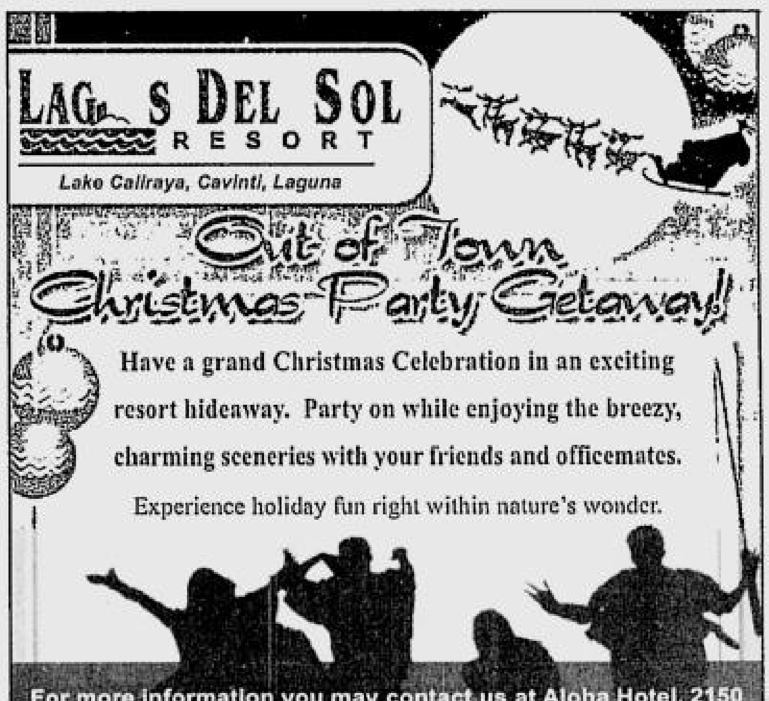
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Josefa Banal; 97

JOSEFA Lerma Banal, grandmother of INQUIRER Lifestyle editor Chelo Banal-Formoso and business columnist Conrad Banal, died on Nov. 4 at the age of 97.

The widow of Philippine Constabulary Col. Conrado C. Banal, she is survived by her children Carmencita Padilla, and Quezon City Councilor Jorge Banal, and children-in-law Jovencia Rojas, Benito Padilla Jr., Charminia Baluyut, and Cynthia de Gracia.

She was preceded in death by her sons Conrado Jr., Jose and Ricardo.

Aside from Chelo and Conrad, she is survived by 22 other grandchildren and 39 great grandchildren.

Her remains lie at the Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows. Interment will be on Saturday at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, after the 8:30 a.m. mass.

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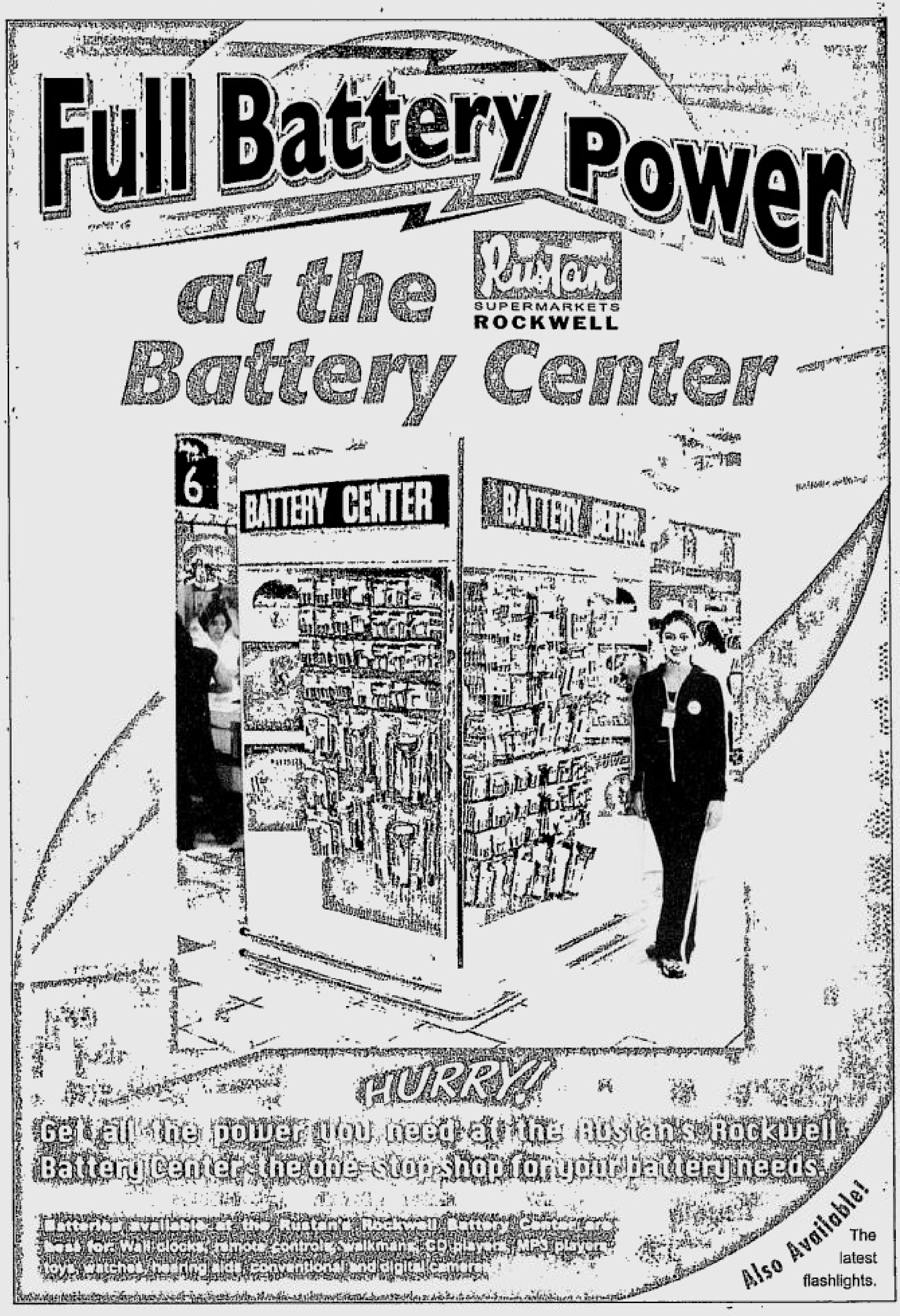
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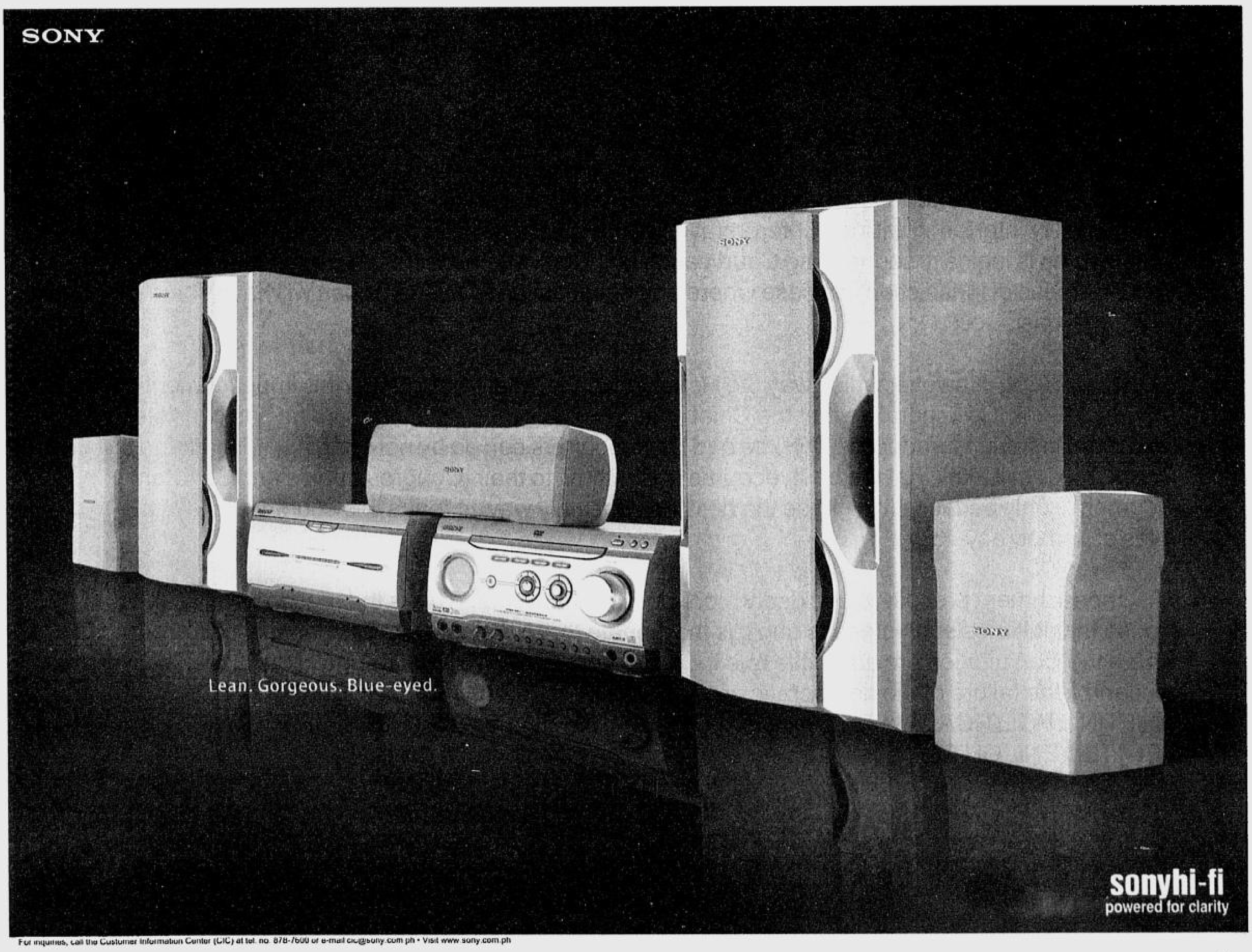

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ON RESOLVING THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE POSED BY THE IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT AGAINST CHIEF JUSTICE HILARIO G. DAVIDE

By: **Florin T. Hilbay,** Bar Topnotcher and Assistant Professor, U.P. College Of Law

Xxx
The exclusive power to initiate all cases of impeachment belongs to the House of Representatives. Xxx In addition to this exclusive power to impeach, there is likewise a textual delegation to both Houses of Congress of the necessary power to promulgate the rules on impeachment. Finally, these specific powers are capped by the general and exclusive power of each of the two Houses of Congress to determine the rules of their proceedings.

Xxx It follows that it [House of Representatives] is that same body that has the competence to rule on the proper interpretation of the provision of the Constitution. More importantly, there are strong reasons to support the proposition that the interpretation of the House in this particular instance should be respected, if not given finality.

First. The text and structure of the Constitutional provision clearly shows that the impeachment power is committed to the House of Representatives. This means that the determination of the House on these matters is an action by a political branch of the government within the exclusive sphere of its influence; and if the doctrine of Separation of Power means anything, it is that the interpretation by the House of (1) a constitutional provision from which an exclusive power is derived and (2) its own rules of proceedings is a political question that is immune from Judicial intervention. In other words, the interpretation by the House of its rules, and, consequently, its determination whether the impeachment proceeding was properly initiated is a non-justiciable issue.

Second. The text of the Constitution itself does not furnish any ascertainable, much less determinative, test for resolving the question of when an impeachment proceeding is deemed to have been initiated. Thus, any ruling by the Court interpreting this provision of the Constitution would be pure policy-making "of a kind clearly for nonjudicial discretion" and, under the peculiar circumstances of this case, likely to be construed as crass politicking. Xxx

Third. An unbiased assessment of the merits of the arguments for and against the validity or constitutionality of the procedure adopted by the more than one-third of the members of the House would show that both positions are sound, if not equally meritorious. Xxx

Xxx If the House could interpret its rules in such a way that it can justify the validity or invalidity of the process of initiating the impeachment complaint, then such fact will shield ANY or EITHER interpretation from the so-called "expanded jurisdiction" of the Court xxx. Thus, they [the Justices] still cannot justify interfering with any interpretation of the House of its own rules considering that either construction is logically sound. The Court cannot impute grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction in a case where any direction taken by the House will have some plausible legal basis. xxx

CONCLUSION. However which way the House and the Senate decides on this impeachment controversy, I think it is imperative that the Chief Justice follows the same standard he has consistently employed in his jurisprudence. This, he and his supporters can do by not bringing the matter to the Court. Xxx I still think that the best recourse is to submit to their [Congressmen's and Senators'] judgment if only because it might be the best if not the only way, to teach this country some of the rules of democracy. Xxx

The impeachment process is decidedly more political than legal. This is the reason why it is the House that initiates such process and it is the Senate that terminates it. It is one of those areas where the Constitution provides little role for the Court to play. To seek refuge in the Court is to recognize the failure of the democratic process – THE STRENGTH OF PUBLIC OPINION, SHIFTING POLITICAL ALLEGIANCES, POWER INTERESTS, and THE POSSIBILITY OF BELATED ENLIGHTENMENT – from working out the best possible political solution to a political problem.

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FRIENDS OF THE COURT
The eight "amici curiae" are, from left, former Sen. Jovito Salonga, law deans Raul Pangalangan and Pacifico Agabin, former Justice Minister Estelito Mendoza, retired SC Justice Hugo Gutierrez Jr., Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., retired Court of Appeals Justice Regalado Maambong and retired SC Justice Florenz Regalado.

ERIK ARAZAS

A delicate balancing act

From page A1

Maambong pointed out that the nation's fundamental law was "very clear" in its language that an impeachment "should be done by a verified complaint or by resolution of impeachment."

Only Representatives Gilbert Teodoro and Felix William Fuentebella signed as complainants, according to Maambong. The others, he said, were "endorsers," not "filers."

"There is no quarrel that the complaint was verified. But I went over the signatures, aside from Representatives Teodoro and Fuentebella, who are clearly complainants, the rest did not sign as complainants... or sign a resolution of endorsement," he said.

"Look at what they said and I will now quote, 'We hereby resolve to endorse as we hereby endorse the attached verified complaint... and strongly recommend that the same be given due course by the House of Representatives,'" Maambong said.

Wrong resolution

Because there was a wrong resolution, the verification was also wrong, he said. "The other members of the House did not sign a resolution of impeachment. Neither did they sign as complainants."

What is required to bypass the House committee on justice so that the Articles of Impeachment can be directly transmitted to the Senate was 76 or one third or more members of the House, "who are complainants and who signed a resolution of impeachment," Maambong said. This, he said, was according to paragraph 4, Section 3, Article II of the Constitution.

Asked by Associate Justice Jose Vitug if the House could still correct the flaw either by adding more names to those of Fuentebella and Teodoro as complainants, or by rewording the last page, Maambong said: "They can always forget the first one, sign a new one but it is still within one year."

"If we read the rules very clearly, the 76 or more are supposed to sign as complainants or (signatories to the) resolution of impeachment before they file it. It is still within the prerogative of Congress to sign it. But since the signing is no longer before the filing, we have a technical problem there," Maambong said.

Pressed by Vitug to answer if the rewording would not violate the double jeopardy doctrine (the constitutional ban on the filing of a second complaint within a year), Mambong said: "From the point of view of the framers of the Constitution, that would violate the (Constitution). They could always replace it with a new one, amend it by substitution. But does not change (the fact) that there was already an initiated impeachment complaint."

He admitted that there was a conflict between the interpretation of the framers of the Constitution and the rules of impeachment promulgated by the House. "The House insisted that it had the sole power of impeachment... but they can't make any rule that they want. Any rule... must conform to the Constitution."

Due to his experience as one of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, Maambong was invited by the Supreme Court to argue before it as one of friends of the court. He said his role was to present the facts, "and it's up to the high court to decide (on the issue)."

Primary jurisdiction

While the Supreme Court may "eventually" have jurisdiction over the case, the Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, has "primary jurisdiction over the issue," Salonga said.

"The Senate can decide if it has a legal basis since there are two complainants and the rest signed only as endorsers. A denial can be done by the Senate motu propio. If the Senate decides that the one-year ban was violated, this could be the end of the whole controversy," the former Senate President said.

He noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo had proposed a tripartite covenant that could end the crisis within three days.

He said that there were also moves in the House for the congressmen who signed the complaint to withdraw their signatures and that the House committee on justice had yet to finish its investigation of the Judiciary Development Fund.

Salonga, however, made a firm stand that the complaint was unconstitutional because it violated Davide's right to due process. He said the Chief Justice was not even given notice and there was no hearing on the charges against him.

"Not even the President of the Philippines or Congress has the power to dismiss a civil service employee without giving him notice and hearing," he said.

Bernas, however, said the court had not only the power but also the "duty" to rule on the case. To do otherwise would be a "dereliction of duty," he said.

Dereliction of duty

He said that if the Supreme Court decided not to rule on the petitions seeking to declare Davide's impeachment unconstitutional, it would be "legitimizing" the moves to have the Chief Justice ousted.

"It's not premature . . . You have a duty to perform. Don't run away from it," said Bernas, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

The court should step in when there is a "grave abuse of discretion resulting in lack or excess of jurisdiction," Salonga said.

Like Maambong, Bernas, also a Concom member, said the impeachment complaint was a "prohibited complaint" because it was the second to be filed against Davide within one year. The Constitution prohibits a second impeachment complaint to prevent harassment of impeachable officials, according to Bernas.

An impeachment is deemed initiated when it is referred to the House committee on justice and the committee acts on it, he said.

Bernas said the House "sole" power to initiate impeachment proceedings should not be construed as a "magic encantation or formula" that could "drive away the Supreme Court."

He said that to skirt the issue, because there could be a clash between the tribunal and Congress, would be similar to the tack taken by the Supreme Court during the Marcos dictatorship.

Bernas noted that the Supreme Court had ruled in the past that if there was a conflict between an audit by the Commission on Audit and that of another body, the results of the COA audit should be followed.

Retired Justice Florenz Regalado, another Concom member, said the House decision to revise its impeachment rules was "a grave abuse of discretion."

Under the new House rules, an impeachment complaint is deemed initiated when the committee on justice finds it to be sufficient in substance or when the House, in plenary session, overturns the committee's finding that a complaint is insufficient in form.

"If there is judicial restraint, there should also be legislative restraint. It should not be tit for tat out of mutual respect. There should be more cooperation and less *amor propio*," Regalado said.

High court lacks authority, say 2 friends of the tribunal

From page A1

Maambong and Joaquin Bernans, spoke before the high bench yesterday to help the latter resolve the issue of whether the second complaint was unconstitutional because it allegedly violated the one-complaint-a-year ban on impeachment.

Before the oral arguments ended at 7 p.m., Associate Justice Jose Vitug acknowledged in open court that only three friends of the court believed that the court could "exercise its jurisdiction" over the petitions filed to block the impeachment of Davide. He was referring to Regalado, Maambong and Bernas.

As for Salonga, Vitug said the former senator had recognized the power of judicial review of the Supreme Court over the acts of the other two branches of government. But he pleaded with us not to exercise it, said Vitug.

Gutierrez' arguments centered on three aspects: the constitutionality of the second complaint, the power of judicial review by the Supreme Court and its fiscal autonomy.

"The Supreme Court has no power of judicial review over the House," insisted the former justice, "except if there is grave abuse of discretion" on the part of the lower chamber.

He said the Supreme Court was the final arbiter of constitutional issues only, not over impeachment proceedings, and thus the court should "abstain from acting on the petitions."

Gutierrez then discussed his theory that the "power of impeachment is basically judicial" by nature, but it was "taken away from the Supreme Court" by the "Constitution and the sovereign people."

"It was vested in the most political branch of government (the legislature)," he said. "The judiciary should be most cautious and circumspect in trying to take jurisdiction of something taken away from it. The approach should be not what it can do, but what it cannot do."

He then suggested to the high bench that it exercise the principle of "self-limitation," saying the Supreme Court should not "be burdened by questions which are highly political."

Mendoza's line of argument centered on judicial power of the Supreme Court which, he said, may not be exercised unless invoked in a proper case.

No case

Without saying whether the tribunal had inherent jurisdiction over impeachment issues, Mendoza said the Supreme Court could not take cognizance of the petitions because there was no case to speak of.

He explained that the petitioners had no legal standing to file the cases with the Supreme Court because they were not the "party-in-interest" or "aggrieved party."

Thus, he said the petitioners could not raise a constitutional issue because it had no cause of action. "Petitioners are third parties, bystanders or sympathizers."

He said Davide himself should have filed the petition to block the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate.

Mendoza reminded the justices that the constitutional issue raised by the petitioners "was not yet ripe for decision" by the Supreme Court because the House had yet to act on the complaint in a plenary session.

He believed that the second complaint was valid because the first complaint had not been initiated. "The Supreme Court should abstain from making a ruling. The Senate should decide (on it), not even the House (should decide on the constitutionality issue."

From 'masturbation' to pronunciation

From page A1

had tremendous national repercussions.

Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo, who presided over the hearing after Davide inhibited himself from the proceedings, announced before the oral arguments started that the court had agreed upon the proper pronunciation of *amici*.

He said it was a-mi-kei, rather than a-mi-chi.

Various dictionaries say other acceptable pronunciations of *amici* are a-mi-ki and a-mi-si.

Renovated session hall

The hearing was held at the tribunal's session hall, the cost of renovation of which had been described by Davide's critics as exorbitant and was among the reasons they wanted him ousted as Chief Justice.

The hearing started at 10 a.m. and resumed at 1:30 p.m. after a lunch break at noon. It was supposed to end at 5 p.m. but as of 5:15 yesterday, the hearing was still ongoing. The court had not yet even heard the lawyers of the contending parties.

The time was consumed by the *amici curiae* who stated their legal opinions and their interpellation by the justices.

8 legal experts

The eight *amici curiae* were retired SC Associate Justices Florenz Regalado and Hugo Gutierrez Jr., Court of Appeals Justice Regalado Maambong, former Sen. Jovito Salonga, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ, former Justice Minister Estelito Mendoza, and law deans Pacifico Agabin and Raul Pangalangan.

The House of Representatives did not send an official representative, but House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Representatives Salacnib Baterina, Antonio Cuenco and Loretta Ann Rosales attended the hearing.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno and Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee Jr. sat at the back of the gallery. Controversial former police agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong showed up.

'Political masturbation'

During the hearing, Maambong, with prior permission from the court, used the phrase "political masturbation," prompting a smile from some of those in the audience.

Maambong said he was quoting 1986 Constitutional Commission member Felicitas Aquino who had wanted impeachment trials to be handled by the Supreme Court.

Aquino had said that giving impeachment power to Congress was tantamount to "political masturbation." Aquino's suggestion was voted down by the Constitutional Commission.

Salonga, who was allowed to speak earlier than scheduled because he was not feeling well, had asked the court to allow him to leave the room from time to time because of his condition.

Like schoolchildren

The crowd in the gallery listened intently like schoolchildren as the *amici curiae* expounded on their legal positions.

Those whose cellular phones rang were given dagger looks. Cell phones were supposed to be banned inside the hall but some people were able to sneak in their phones.

Seats and a large video monitor outside the hall were provided for those who could not be accommodated inside.

At times, the people talked among themselves about some of the legal points raised, prompting Bellosillo to admonish the audience to keep quiet.

'A duty to perform'

Some members of the audience applauded after Bernas told the court it had an obligation to try the case.

"You have a duty to perform. Don't run away from it," Bernas told the magistrates.

Bellosillo had to tell the crowd to stop clapping.

Bernas was one of the *amici curiae* who received many queries from the justices.

When he was asked if the legislature should be trusted and be allowed to handle the impeachment process, Bernas replied: "Trust is earned."

Justice Artemio Panganiban asked him what would happen if the SC sided with Davide, and Congress insisted that he be impeached, and Davide said he would follow the court.

Bernas said Panganiban had made "a series of assumptions." But he added that he could "also assume" that President Macapagal-Arroyo "would do something about it."

Bernas said that he was hopeful that despite the rhetoric of Davide's critics in the House of Representatives, they would eventually follow the decision of the court on the matter.

Hope becomes a virtue

"Hope becomes a virtue when a situation is hopeless," Bernas said in closing.

But he did slip once.

In the course of his arguments, he had said "articles of incorporation" instead of "articles of impeachment."

Learning the law

Incidentally, some of the SC justices had previously served or even learned their law from some of the *amici curiae*.

Justice Reynato Puno said he once served at the tribunal under Regalado.

Justice Renato Corona acknowledged Bernas, the former dean of the Ateneo De Manila University law school, as "my esteemed professor from whom I learned my constitutional law."

Palace releases draft of tripartite covenant

From page A1

is this agency, not Davide, which the House committee should ask to explain the disbursements of the multibillion-peso JDF.

The Nationalist People's Coalition, the second biggest party in the House which initiated Davide's impeachment, has rejected the covenant. *(See story on this page).*

The President admitted that her proposed covenant was meeting obstacles but said she had asked Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to "thresh out" the House position.

Breaking news

But according to Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental), the Palace's "breaking news mentality" can spoil efforts to forge a covenant between Congress and the Supreme Court to resolve the crisis.

Paras advised Malacañang to proceed with circumspection rather than resort to a "blow-by-blow account that could make its hoped-for solution more elusive."

"This is the time for quiet, diplomatic, discreet and out-of-the-limelight work," he said. "Unfortunately, it is amateur hour for diplomacy in the government."

Paras noted the "bum advice" given to the President, whose spokesperson Ignacio Bunye announced Tuesday that she had furnished the draft covenant to Davide and De Venecia Jr.

"The prudent course was to send the document quietly and without fanfare. Because if the Supreme Court and the House will later reject the covenant, then there will be pie on many faces in Malacañang," Paras said.

He cited Bunye's claim Tuesday that Davide was amenable to the covenant without benefit of a solid basis, as well as statements issued by Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez that party congressmen were withdrawing their signatures from the impeachment complaint.

"Bunye and Alvarez are clerking for Davide. They're spreading disinformation, like the mass withdrawal of signatories," Paras said.

He said the President's men, like Bunye and Alvarez, should "refrain from commenting too much on the issue."

"If it's work in progress, they should shut up. Please make an announcement when it is already a done deal," he said.

He also said that from initial media reports on the proposed covenant, it "even diminished the power of Congress, particularly its oversight powers."

Agreement

Part III of the four-part draft covenant stipulates the "agreement" that would bind the three branches of the government.

Article 1 says the House shall: 1) withdraw the impeachment complaint against Davide without prejudice to the House taking whatever action it deems appropriate after its committee on justice has completed its work and submitted its report, and 2) direct the committee to continue its investigation in aid of legislation of the management of the JDF.

For this purpose, Article 1 says, the House may ask the COA to explain its special audit report dated Sept. 5, 2003, and to provide the information and analysis needed by the committee to complete its work.

Article 2 says the Supreme Court shall continue to fully cooperate with the COA vis a vis the JDF. In accordance with its powers and prerogatives, including its fiscal autonomy, the tribunal will act on the recommendations of the COA and "appropriate referrals of Congress" regarding the concerns of the judiciary, "to achieve optimum employee benefits from the JDF and from other sources that Congress may appropriate."

Article 3 provides that the executive "recognizes, with unswerving neutrality," the independence of the legislative and judicial branches "in the exercise of their respective powers and prerogatives."

Only the COA

But in Part II, specific provisions of the draft covenant stipulate that the House may not directly look into the JDF.

Article 4 says: "With respect to the expenditures of public funds, the [COA] has the authority and competence to audit the books of accounts of all government offices in accordance with law and accounting principles and practices. It submits its findings and recommendations to the Congress and the appropriate government offices."

The covenant notes that the House has the power to conduct "investigations in aid of legislation" and the power of the purse. But it says that the House's oversight functions "must be exercised within the parameters as established by jurisprudence."

As for the high court, the covenant says it has the power to adjudicate cases and determine with finality the interpretation of the Constitution and all other questions of law.

"It has the duty to determine whether any branch or instrumentality of government has acted without or in excess of its jurisdiction amounting to lack of jurisdiction, or has acted beyond its constitutional powers. Its independence must never be impaired," the covenant says.

It also says the filing of an impeachment complaint against Davide on Oct. 23 "has created a crisis whose escalation could cause or result in a grave threat or danger to our democratic institutions," and has divided the people.

It says the urgent call of the hour is to prevent the worsening of the crisis, rescue the country from the brink of disaster, and strengthen the democratic institutions.

House panel

A seven-member panel was formed yesterday in the House to conduct party-to-party meetings on the proposed covenant, De Venecia said.

He said the panel was formed in lieu of the multiparty caucus scheduled today but which was later cancelled.

The decision to discuss the covenant with all the political parties in the House was reached after a three-hour meeting at De Venecia's house in Makati.

The panel will be headed by Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales, with the following congressmen as members: Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez, Florencio Abad of Batanes, Robert "Ace" Barbers of Surigao del Norte, Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur, Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City, and Rolando Andaya of Camarines Sur.

The other lawmakers present at the meeting were Oscar Rodriguez of Pampanga, Salacnib Baterina of Ilocos Sur, Clavel Martinez of Cebu, Manuel Zamora of Compostela Valley, Rafael Nantes of Quezon and Junie Cua of Quirino.

"We will try to work out a compromise within 48 hours. We remain hopeful of a principled solution since the public opinion is heavily in favor of a settlement," De Venecia said.

He said the covenant was overwhelmingly endorsed by members not just of Lakas but also of the Liberal Party and of party-list groups.

He also said the planned transmittal of the impeachment complaint to the Senate on Nov. 10, as agreed upon in the multiparty caucus last week, was based on four conditions already made public by Abad:

- That there will be a motion to transmit the complaint to the Senate.
- That there will be a quorum when the motion is made.
- That the number of signatories will be at least 76.
- That those opposed to the motion will be allowed to speak so that their views will be properly recorded by the House secretariat. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Pro-impeachment bloc to junk Palace deal

From page A1

to stop him and his colleagues.

"This is the worst-case scenario: The Supreme Court declares the impeachment as illegal, but it cannot prevent us from performing our ministerial duty," he said.

Escudero stressed that the impeachment complaint had been signed by more than one-third of the 226-member House, and that under the 1987 Constitution, this complaint should be automatically transmitted to the Senate sitting as an impeachment court.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said Tuesday that she was offering a tripartite covenant to end the impeachment crisis. Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that she presented the draft covenant to Davide and De Venecia at a dinner in Malacañang Sunday, and that it "appeared acceptable" to the Chief Justice.

Yesterday in Polangui, Albay, the President expressed hope that her proposed covenant would succeed in ending the crisis.

"I remain hopeful for the principled way of solving the impasse," she said, adding that she made the initiative in the name of the national interest.

She said she had no problem with Senate President Franklin Drilon. She also said the Chief Justice was "willing to sign, while De Venecia depends on the approval" of the House.

Maneuverings

But in Lucena City, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan urged the Supreme Court not to be embroiled in the "political maneuverings" of Congress and Malacañang.

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said it would be dangerous for the tribunal to be perceived as using the judiciary to protect one of its own.

Instead, he said, the tribunal should "allow the House, the Senate and Malacañang to resolve the impeachment controversy; open the books of the Judiciary Development Fund; and uphold its earlier ruling declaring the coconut levy funds as a public fund."

"Only in this way can the Supreme Court prove that it is beyond the petty politics and political maneuverings that have characterized the impeachment complaint," Casiño said in a statement.

Bayan has repeatedly condemned the impeachment move as a "Cojuangco-inspired, NPC-initiated, Arroyo-agreed and De Venecia-allowed ploy" to clinch the alliance between the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and the 63-member NPC chaired by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

"Be that as it may, the Supreme Court should not appear to be stooping down to this level of opportunism and political horse-trading. If it stops the impeachment process at this point, it will be perceived as no better than its enemies," Casiño said.

He said that if, despite strong public opposition, the impeachment complaint reaches the Senate, Davide should be ready "to prove to the public that he is innocent of the charges."

"Let Congress and Malacañang, which connived to allow Davide's impeachment, redeem themselves or shoot themselves in the foot," Casiño said.

Indecent proposal

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said the covenant was "an indecent proposal from a Chief Executive."

"The three branches of the government cannot connive," he said, adding that the President could not "sit, dine and wine with [leaders of the other branches of the government] to plan to violate the Charter."

Suplico said De Venecia had called a multi-party caucus of all congressmen today at the House's Andaya Hall to discuss the issue, but that this had been canceled.

"The Speaker has no choice but to implement the agreement in the [Oct. 30] multi-party caucus to transmit the impeachment complaint to the Senate on Nov. 10 [when Congress resumes session]. He should know the consequences of not implementing this agreement," Suplico said.

Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat said the President appeared to be adding a new provision to the Charter.

"Is there a covenant provision in our Constitution?" he said. "Why didn't she propose a covenant during [the impeached Joseph Estrada's] time?"

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla pointed out that the impeachment process commenced when the proponents were able to gather the required number of signatures. He said there was no recourse for De Venecia but to complete the process by transmitting the complaint to the Senate.

"I feel that [the transmittal issue] is no longer the subject as far as the LDP is concerned," said Padilla, a key leader of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

"Any *areglo* (settlement) by the Speaker is unacceptable at this stage," he said.

Sellout

Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental), a signatory to the complaint, said the covenant was "a sellout of the House."

"I've seen the covenant, and it's in favor of the Supreme Court," he said. "The covenant is lopsided. It's unfortunate that the Speaker wants to carry it out."

Paras said many of the Lakas signatories disapproved of the covenant, of De Venecia's endorsement of it, and of Ms Macapagal's interference.

"This covenant has further alienated the President from the Lakas signatories," Paras said. "Instead of appeasing them, it made them more angry. So we banded together to save the [House] from this encroachment."

Paras also assailed De Venecia: "The leadership of the House has caused a clash among us because of his *'urong-sulong.'* Now that he's all out for the Supreme Court, I think he's in trouble."

But Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said members of the House must rise above partisan concerns and help avert a constitutional crisis.

The party-list representative, who is leading a campaign to convince the impeachment proponents to withdraw their signatures, insisted that the complaint against Davide was defective.

Rosales urged the signatories to allow the complaint to be remanded to the House committee on justice for further scrutiny and deliberation.

She said this would give them more time to appreciate the documents, particularly the report of the Commission on Audit that said there were no irregular disbursements of the JDF.

Impartiality

Paras said the Supreme Court acted "against public policy" when it decided to rule on the petitions questioning the legality of the second impeachment complaint against Davide.

"How can they claim impartiality?" Paras said, noting that the issue involved not only the Chief Justice but also the other justices' interest in the JDF.

He added: "They have also benefited from the JDF in the form of cars, cottages and furniture given them through the JDF by Davide."

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City), who did not sign the complaint, said that if the tribunal rules against the House, the latter "may not follow."

"An [adverse court decision] may become an unenforceable order, or just a decision on paper that cannot be implemented," he said.

Asked what would result from the continued standoff between the judiciary and the legislature, Nograles said: "Crisis."

He said it was the Senate, not the high court, which had the power to decide whether the second impeachment complaint was unconstitutional.

"As the impeachment tribunal, it's only the Senate that can check the House concerning impeachment. This is a political matter exempt from judicial review," Nograles added.

Appeal

Drilon reiterated his appeal for the high court to rule on the constitutionality of the second impeachment complaint against Davide by noon of Nov. 10.

He told reporters that he intended to call a Senate caucus at noon of that day to get the senators' "consensus" on what they should do in the event that the tribunal fails to do so.

"From what I understand, the House will force the issue and send the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate," he said, adding that the Senate would subsequently "act accordingly."

If the tribunal rules that the House impeachment rules and the Davide impeachment complaint are unconstitutional, senators "will respect the decision," Drilon said.

"I will propose to the Senate that we not act on the complaint anymore even if it is sent to us should the Supreme Court declare the same as unconstitutional," he said.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo reiterated that there was no need to rush the high court to make a decision by Nov. 10.

"In case the House transmits [the Articles of Impeachment] to the Senate, all that the Senate has to do is table it and wait for the resolution of the Supreme Court. In that way, nobody will be prejudiced," Arroyo told reporters at a separate news briefing. *With reports from Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Christine O. Avendaño in Manila*

Spare my family, Wimpy, COA auditor appeals

From page A1

pro-impeachment congressmen to instead focus on the merits of her audit report.

"Please don't destroy my reputation. I pity my children," she said in Filipino an interview over radio dzBB.

Caga-anan said she decided to break her silence and call up the radio station to respond to an attack on her person made by Camarines Rep. Felix William Fuentebella on another radio station.

Fuentebella is one of the principal proponents of the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. whom he accuses of misusing the JDF.

Caga-anan, 45, claimed that Fuentebella had said on radio that her pending cases in the courts were preventing her from correctly interpreting the law covering the multibillion-peso JDF.

She said the charges were "not right because they were not true."

"I pity my children so I am clarifying matters out. I am not a respondent to any case in court, but I am a witness, having been the one who audited and uncovered the alleged irregularities," Caga-anan said.

The multi-awarded auditor said she did not even get words of appreciation from Fuentebla after she helped the congressman get the documents needed for the impeachment complaint against Davide. Caga-anan said all she got were personal attacks from the young congressman.

She said she provided the House of Representatives the necessary "vouchers" in the course of its investigation of the JDF. But in her report, Caga-anan cleared Davide of any irregularities in the appropriation of the fund.

Exceptions

But Pampanga Rep. Jesli Lapus said the COA report on the JDF was full of statements of exceptions to accepted accounting standards on accounts such as cash, property and equipment and inventories.

CAGA-ANAN: Outstanding auditor

Aside from the statements not being reconciled, there were overstatements, lack of subsidiary ledgers and most of all, no "booking," said Lapus, a certified public accountant.

"The adjusting entries for three years—2000-2002—were made only in 2003! This is a very disturbing sign and it means that the JDF books may not be reliable. At the very least, the JDF financial and bookkeeping management sucks," he said.

Lapus suggested that an independent top auditing firm look into the COA report. He said he was sure that more serious irregularities would be unearthed in an independent audit of the JDF.

Caga-anan said the cases at the Sandiganbayan and the Office of the Ombudsman stemmed from her efforts to perform her job the best she could in her 25 years of service.

Outstanding

She said a graft case at the Sandiganbayan resulted from her discovery of ghost deliveries at the Department of Public Works and Highways in 1996. That feat, she said, earned her the title "outstanding auditor" in 1997 and her auditing unit was adjudged "outstanding unit" in the country.

"If there is a case at the Sandiganbayan, it was because I was the witness, not the accused in the ghost deliveries at the DPWH," Caga-anan said.

She said she also uncovered a P55-million scam at the Manila International Airport. Although the Sandiganbayan found a top MIA official guilty, she said the Supreme Court acquitted the official.

"Truth to tell, I should be the one who should hold a grudge against the high tribunal," Caga-anan said.

When she was assigned to the Department of Health, Caga-anan and her team audited some of the vouchers that linked then Health Secretary Hilarion Ramiro Jr. to a multimillion-peso medical supply scam in 1996. The case cost Ramiro his post.

"I offer my work to God. I'm not a corrupt auditor. And that is attested to by my performance in all the units I was assigned to," she said.

She said her two daughters were the ones paying for the personal attacks on her by Fuentebella.

"My children were asked: 'Why does your mother have pending cases in court?'" Caga-anan said. The auditor said her daughter at the Ateneo de Manila University even got an offer from her classmate to allow her classmate's father to defend her mother in court.

Caga-anan's husband is a ship captain plying the international route.

Asked if she was considering filing a case against Fuentebella, Caga-anan replied: "I just pray to God to guide me. I just want to clear my name (on radio) nationwide. I don't have plans against him. The truth is, he is just 28 years old and I am 45. He is like a son to me."

But she said she was hurt when the name she had kept unblemished for years was "destroyed by someone."

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush blames Saddam for troubles of US soldiers

ALPINE, California—Facing rising casualties in Iraq, President George W. Bush said that Saddam Hussein was "trying to stir up trouble" for the American-led occupation but vowed that the United States would track him down.

"We'll get him, we'll find him," Bush said in his most unequivocal acknowledgment that the administration believed Saddam was alive and playing some sort of role in the armed opposition.

Six months after declaring an end to major combat, Bush said, "We are at war."

For a long time after the US air strikes in Baghdad, the administration refused to say whether Saddam was dead or alive. But that position has changed in recent weeks. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said last week that attacks against Americans were practically inevitable as long as Saddam remained on the loose.

"The fact that he's alive is unhelpful," Rumsfeld said.

Some US officials say they doubt Saddam is able to coordinate attacks against US forces, believing instead that he must spend most of his time avoiding detection and capture. However, the officials have noted Saddam has released several audio tapes aimed at rallying Iraqis to fight the occupation.

Bush was asked about Saddam and the attacks against Americans as he paused to talk with reporters during a tour of fire-ravaged neighborhoods in Southern California. He said he soon would sign the newly approved $87.5-billion package he requested for Iraq and Afghanistan. Aides said the signing would be Thursday.

He said the US-led reconstruction of Iraq "will help change the world in a positive way, so that years from now people will sit back and say, 'Thank goodness America stayed the course and did what was necessary to win this battle in the war on terror.'"

A new Washington Post-ABC News poll indicates that 61 percent of Americans believe Iraq is part of the war on terrorism but just one in seven, 14 percent, agrees with the Bush administration's assertion that it is the most important fight in that war. *AP*

State of emergency in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Sri Lanka's political crisis deepened Wednesday when the president declared a state of emergency, but officials insisted she wouldn't restart a bloody 20-year civil war and would honor a shaky ceasefire with Tamil Tiger rebels.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga further asserted her power across the troubled island nation as her rival Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was scheduled to go ahead with talks in Washington with US President George W. Bush.

Her emergency order has been signed but has not yet been made public, according to a top official in Kumaratunga's office, speaking on condition of anonymity.

It allows the military to enter homes without search warrants, arrest people without reason and hold them for lengthy periods. It also gives the president the power to enact laws and gives her extraordinary control over the media, allowing for the tight censorship that was common under earlier states of emergency.

SOLDIERS guard Lake House, the complex where government newspapers are published in Colombo. REUTERS

The crisis began Tuesday when Kumaratunga—who has wide authority under the constitution to dismiss the government—made a dramatic power play while Wickremesinghe was in the United States.

Kumaratunga, who accuses the prime minister of being soft on the rebels, fired three top ministers, suspended Parliament and deployed troops around the capital.

The emergency order was certain to infuriate the Tiger rebels, who have fought a two-decade war for independence for the country's Tamil people but who have held to a ceasefire with the government for more than 18 months.

The minority Tamils suffered the worst during the country's last state of emergency, often enduring brutal treatment by security forces.

Wickremesinghe was to meet later Wednesday with Bush to secure further US support for his drive to bring a lasting peace in the civil war, which has left 65,000 people dead since 1983.

The Tamil Tiger rebels signed a ceasefire in 2002, halting the fighting, but have since dropped out of peace talks and demanded sweeping administrative powers in the Tamil-majority areas of Sri Lanka's northeast as a condition for returning to the peace process.

Lakshman Kadirgama, a top aide to Kumaratunga, said the president had no plans to resume fighting the Tigers.

"I am specially authorized by the president to state that the ceasefire agreement stands, and will stand," he told reporters. "The president has absolutely no intention whatsoever of resuming hostilities."

A website that reports on Tamil affairs said Kumaratunga's Tuesday moves threw the status of the ceasefire into uncertainty. "Prospects for ending the conflict (have) dimmed," said TamilNet.

Rebel fighters in several regions were put on alert by top rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran following emergency meetings, a senior rebel said.

The situation was being carefully watched, the official said. *AP*

Illegal loggers in Indonesia branded 'terrorists'

BUKIT LAWANG, Indonesia—Indonesia's environment minister on Wednesday labeled illegal loggers "terrorists" for rampant deforestation said to be the main cause of a devastating flood on Sumatra island that left more than 200 people either dead or missing.

The flash flood on the western Indonesian island swept away scores of dwellings, many of which served as guesthouses for tourists visiting a famous orangutan reserve.

Rescuers with chain saws and bulldozers had pulled out 92 corpses by Wednesday from debris—mostly uprooted trees, logs, rocks and building materials—piled two stories high.

Families reported more than 150 people missing, the private Metro TV on Wednesday quoted village chief Yusmaidah as saying. Officials cautioned, however, that some people who had left the area before the floods may appear on missing lists, inflating the figure.

Environmentalists say unchecked logging in Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago with 210 million inhabitants, disrupts the natural absorption and flow of rainwater from the highlands, triggering floods and landslides that sweep into the valleys.

Government officials admit that illegal felling in Leuser Park may have blocked a waterway high in the mountains, causing a huge flash flood when they collapsed Sunday night in Bukit Lawang, North Sumatra.

"These illegal loggers are like terrorists," Environment Minister Nabiel Makarim said at the presidential palace in Jakarta.

He said the environment ministry had given instructions to clear the protected forests of illegal loggers in Sumatra. But "it's extremely difficult to prosecute them because we are dealing with corrupt officials and business people," he said.

In her first public comments since the flooding, President Megawati Sukarnoputri sent her "deepest condolences to those who have lost family members or suffered from the disaster." *AP*

UN urges US to end embargo against Cuba

UNITED NATIONS—The UN General Assembly on Tuesday urged the United States for the 12th straight year to end its 42-year-old trade embargo against Cuba, overwhelmingly rejecting Washington's argument and its call for Cubans to remove Fidel Castro.

The resolution, which is not legally binding, got 179 "yes" votes—over 93 percent of the UN's 191 member states and six more than last year. Only Israel and the Marshall Islands joined the United States in voting "no," —as they did last year—while Micronesia and Morocco abstained.

Ambassador Sichan Siv, the US representative to the UN Economic and Social Council, told the General Assembly the embargo was a bilateral issue and accused Cuba of trying "to blame its economic woes on the United States and to divert attention from its abysmal human rights record."

When the United States challenged the Castro government to permit "free and fair elections to the National Assembly" and open its economy and allow independent trade unions, Siv said, "the Cuban government carried out a brutal crackdown last March," sentencing 75 opposition members to up to 28 years in prison.

"The best day for Cuba is when the Cuban people open their ears and hear the truth. It's when they open their eyes and see freedom. *AP*

Seoul aims missiles at Pyongyang

SEOUL—South Korea will next month begin deploying US-made missiles capable of hitting targets across most of communist North Korea, a South Korean defense ministry official said Wednesday.

The Army Tactical Missile System Block 1A missiles, made by US Lockheed Martin with a range of 300 km, will be deployed near the Demilitarized Zone—a 4-km-wide buffer zone separating the two Koreas.

Such long-range missiles would be capable of striking Pyongyang, and also Yongbyon where the North says it is using spent nuclear fuel rods to make atomic bombs.

"We plan to start deploying the missiles next month," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Seoul has said it plans to purchase 111 of the missiles by 2004. *AP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Cambodian parties form gov't

PHNOM PENH—The three parties that won seats in Cambodia's general elections agreed Wednesday to form a coalition government, apparently ending a long-running deadlock. Representatives of the parties, who met at the Royal Palace for talks hosted by King Norodom Sihanouk, also agreed to let Prime Minister Hun Sen make a bid for the leadership post by seeking a vote in the National Assembly. The agreement is an apparent breakthrough in the deadlock that resulted from the July 27 elections in which Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party won 73 seats in the 123-member National Assembly, short of a two-thirds majority needed to create a government on its own. *AP*

Khmer Rouge commander loses appeal

PHNOM PENH—A Cambodian appeals court on Wednesday upheld a guilty verdict against an ex-Khmer Rouge commander in the 1994 murder of three Western backpackers for which he was sentenced to life in prison. Chhouk Rin, 50, was found guilty by the same three-judge panel that convicted him last year in connection with the deaths of the young tourists from Australia, France and Britain. Samreth Sophal, the head of the appeals court panel, said there was sufficient evidence to prove Chhouk Rin was guilty of five charges: terrorism, premeditated murder, intentionally causing destruction of property, illegal detainment of persons and robbery. *AP*

Republicans score victories

NEW YORK—Washington lobbyist Haley Barbour unseated Mississippi Democratic Gov. Ronnie Musgrove as the Republicans swept both governors' races at stake and consolidated party gains in the South. Rep. Ernie Fletcher decisively won in Kentucky, ousting Democrats from power after 32 years. With 92 percent of precincts reporting, Barbour got 53 percent, or 441,188 votes, to Musgrove's 45 percent, or 378,260 votes. Fletcher, a three-term congressman, defeated state Attorney General Ben Chandler, collecting 593,508 votes, or 55 percent, to 484,938, or 45 percent, for Fletcher. *AP*

China to send 2 astronauts into orbit

BEIJING—Its confidence in space travel rising, China announced plans Wednesday to send two more astronauts into orbit within the next two years on the country's second manned mission. The announcement, carried by the official Xinhua News Agency's website, was the most detailed information yet on China's plans for its next space launch aboard the ship that would be called Shenzhou 6. Xinhuanet cited the Chinese manned space program's chief designer, Wang Yongzhi. *AP*

Green lowers risk of cancer

PERTH, Australia—Men who drink green tea daily reduce their risk of prostate cancer by two-thirds, a joint Australia-China study reported here Wednesday has found. And men who drink big volumes of tea, or over many years, can cut their risk even more, according to the survey by Perth's Curtin University and Zhejiang Cancer Hospital in Hangzhou, China, the West Australian newspaper reported. The main finding was that men who drink green tea daily had only one-third the risk of prostate cancer compared with non-tea drinkers, while men who drink tea in big amounts over a long period reduce the risk more. *AFP*

Voyager at edge of solar system

PARIS—Voyager 1, the legendary US space probe launched more than 26 years ago, may have crossed a key, stormy boundary as it passes through the last fringes of our solar system and ventures toward the interstellar void beyond, scientists say.

Bearing greetings in 55 languages and sounds and pictures of life on Earth, the most distant man-made object may have crossed a zone of turbulence known as the termination shock, they say.

For the last couple of years, Voyager 1 has been crossing the heliosphere, a region where the energized particles spewed by the distant Sun—a flow of plasma known as the solar wind—start to crash into the atomic and molecular debris that come from interstellar space. *AFP*

ANTI-SMOKING BRA

A Japanese model displays the new "Anti-Smoking Bra," which emits a mysterious fragrance designed to kill the urge to smoke, in Tokyo on Nov. 5. AFP

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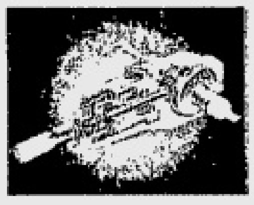

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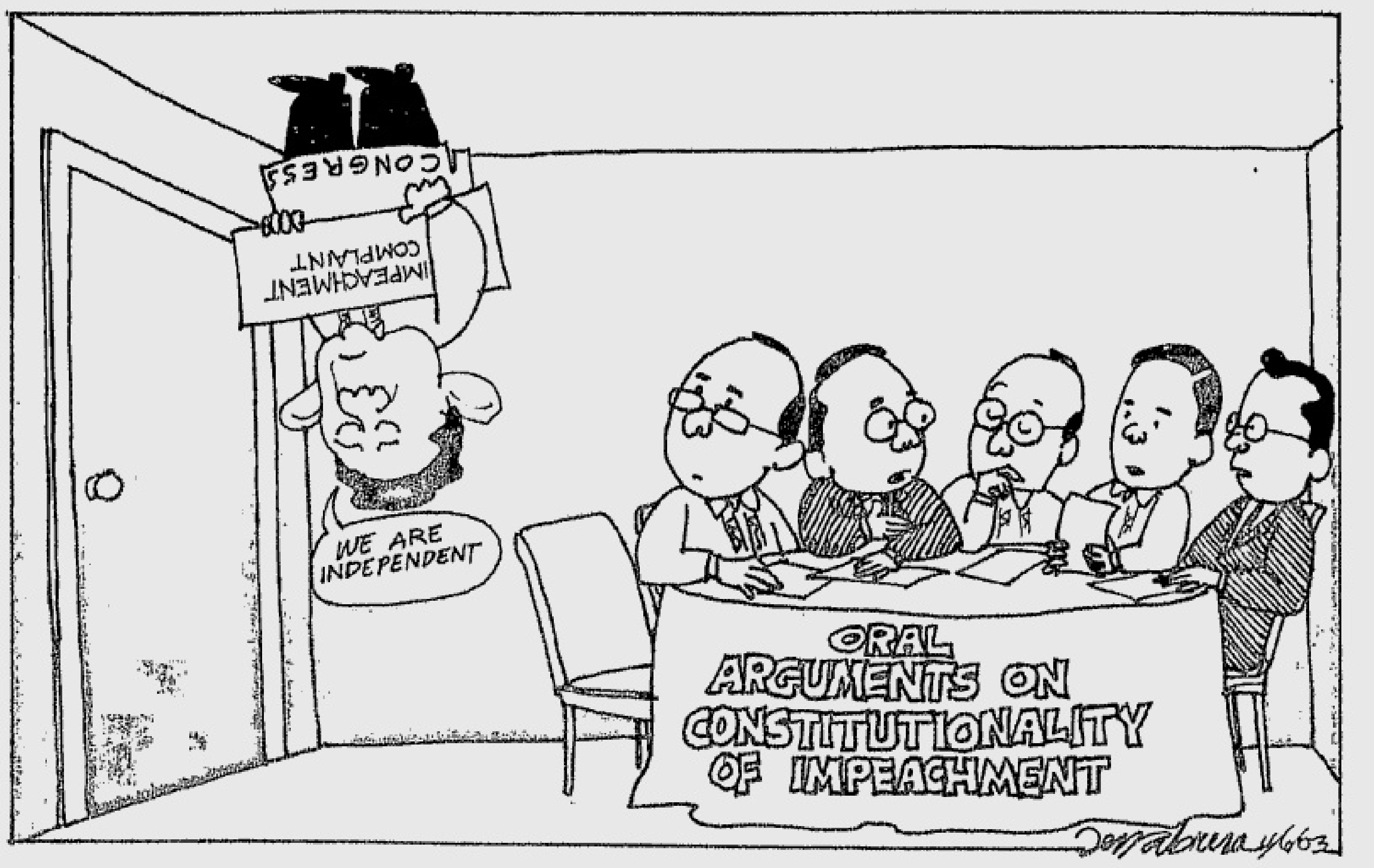

Vietnam syndrome

EDITORIAL

A FEW days after a missile downed a US Chinook helicopter in Iraq, killing 16 soldiers, Iraqi guerrillas mounted mortar attacks on a US Army camp in Baghdad, and killed one US soldier in Tikrit. The fresh attacks dramatized the increasing risks from guerrillas facing US occupation troops.

The casualties in the helicopter crash were the largest US death toll in any single action since the invasion of Iraq last March. The casualties in the period since the fall of Baghdad are larger than those during the invasion by the US-led coalition forces and are mounting. The attacks are likely to intensify, heightening the debate in the United States over America's resolve to stay the course in quelling the attacks and in establishing a stable democracy in Iraq.

Iraq remains a veritable weapons arsenal that can sustain guerrilla attacks. American officials estimate that nearly one million tons of weapons and ammunition are scattered in thousands of sites all over the country.

The presence of about 150,000 mostly American occupation troops incites the hatred of Iraqis. The hatred is such that even civilians who fraternize with occupation troops and security forces trained by the United States to restore order are the object of rising popular hostility.

The increasing casualties are raising questions in the United States as the 2004 presidential elections approach over whether more troops would be deployed in Iraq or withdrawn if the casualties became unacceptable to American domestic opinion. Withdrawal themes echo the US experience in Vietnam, where casualties were counted in the tens of thousands and in which it sank into the quagmire of an unwinnable guerrilla war. That quagmire so corrosively undermined the Lyndon Johnson presidency that he was forced to scuttle his reelection ambition.

Although the scale of the casualties in Iraq is relatively modest by comparison, the United States is paying a heavy economic cost for the reconstruction of Iraq. The Bush administration's request for $78 billion for aid to Iraq may be moving in Congress, but the Vietnam syndrome is starting to haunt President George W. Bush. He is under pressure to bring home more troops as soon as possible.

The Bush administration's answer to questions over increasing casualties is to understate the problem. Defense Secretary Ronald Rumsfeld said that the attacks would have no effect on the administration's determination to finish the job in Iraq. "We can win this war," he said. "We will win this war." But he himself conceded that the fight would be a "long, hard slog."

Rumsfeld has also acknowledged that "foreign troops in a country are unnatural... The goal is to keep them there only as long as they're needed, and not one day longer."

But all his statements have hardly assured the American public that the United States is not engaged in an expensive and unwinnable war.

The helicopter attack has given the Democratic Party ammunition to question Bush's foreign policy. Wesley Clark, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the presidency, has taken Bush to task for declaring the end of the military campaign in Iraq as early as May. Clark recalled that Bush had then declared, "Mission accomplished." "Yet," he said," "we still have no plan to bring peace to Iraq to protect our soldiers."

The increasing difficulties encountered by the United States in rebuilding the Iraqi economy, establishing an effective political authority led by Iraqis and in countering guerrilla attacks have eroded significantly Bush's popularity. The Iraqi question is gaining as much salience as the economy in the US debate leading to next year's presidential elections. As the elections near, these two issues are likely to determine the fate of Bush.

Bigger threat

FOREIGN COMMENT

FROM THE BEGINNING it has been said that the United States must use a broad arsenal in which diplomatic, police, political and military efforts work together.

However, one problem from an American viewpoint is that the humility and willingness to cooperate that existed immediately after the terror attacks in New York and Washington was conspicuous by its absence during the diplomatic prelude to the Iraq war. Then the tone was significantly more self-confident than it is today.

It does not do any good, however, to dwell on all that has happened.

The outside world—including the United States—must act according to the reality which exists. And the reality is that an Iraq where terror is allowed to win becomes a bigger threat against international peace and security than Saddam Hussein's oppressive regime was.

Dagens Nyheter (Stockholm, Sweden)

Don't fence me in

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DON'T you feel fenced in with all the barriers scattered all over the streets of Metro Manila? Steel fences, concrete blocks, plastic barriers everywhere. But the traffic jams and jaywalking continue. They only make the suppliers of these barriers richer and the taxpayers poorer but they don't improve traffic.

Even the parks, which should be open to the public, are fenced in. In fact, the public is banned from the park in the triangle formed by Ayala Avenue, Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati. It is a fenced park you can only look at but never enjoy, like a toy locked inside a display counter which you cannot play with. These, plus the tall fences surrounding the palatial homes in the exclusive villages, make you feel hemmed in.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has tried everything to make traffic move faster—color coding, street widening, one-way streets, yellow boxes, yellow lanes, no left turn, no crossing, tow-away zones, U-turns everywhere, even urinating stations. But it hasn't thought of the only things that will lessen the traffic congestion: reducing the vehicles on the streets and providing more parking buildings. There are just too many vehicles with nowhere to park them, and too few streets.

Every month, thousands of new vehicles are churned out by the vehicle assemblers. Thousands more of imported second-hand vehicles pour in. Most of them end up in Metro Manila. Very few old vehicles are phased out. Filipino mechanics and body repairers can make them run forever. Look at the jeepneys which date back to World War II. Instead of diminishing, they are increasing. The ambition of most poor families is to have a jeepney or a tricycle. So if you keep pouring all these vehicles into Metro Manila without taking others out, time will come when no vehicle can move in the streets.

The fees paid for vehicle registration are supposed to be used for street construction and maintenance, but very few new streets are constructed. As my grandfather used to say, you can't put 10 pounds of sh-- in a five-pound bag. And that's what is happening in the urban areas. There are too many vehicles in too few streets.

Even when the vehicles are not being used, they contribute to clogging. They are parked not in garages or carports of their owners but out in the streets. Usually, only the residents of subdivisions have garages and carports, although in this age of multiple family vehicles, they also sometimes spill out into the streets. Drive around the residential streets of Metro Manila at night and you will find them filled with parked vehicles. In Tokyo, you can't buy a vehicle unless you can show a title to a garage. In New York, the fines for vehicles left out in the streets are so stiff, and the cost of parking is also so stiff, that New Yorkers refrain from owning vehicles. Anyway, public transportation is so plentiful in the Big Apple—subway, train, buses that run on schedule, taxicabs, rented limousines (but no tricycles)—that you don't need your own car.

Here free enterprise in public transport is the culprit, aided by a corrupt and inefficient Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). Any Tom, Dick and Harry can have a franchise for a jeepney, bus, taxicab or tricycle. (Franchises for tricycles are issued by local government units.) All of them operate on the "boundary" system. The driver pays a flat fee (the "boundary") to the owner and buys the gasoline and oil. What is left of his earnings after paying all these is his take home pay.

The rent for the jeepney or cab is usually for 12 hours, so the driver has to keep working or else he loses money. Competition is very keen. Drivers use all the tricks, violate traffic rules, and bribe cops to earn enough. And *tong* is what makes cops blind to the violations.

The bright spots are the elevated rails: the Metrorail and the Light Rail Transit. They are fast transportation above the traffic, and more people would like to use them. But they are always so full that commuters are forced to ride the buses which are almost always only half-full even if it takes them longer to reach their destinations. It would be common sense to bring in more trains and coaches. More passengers, more money.

But why are they not doing this? Because the private companies are guaranteed by the government a minimum income. If they don't earn this, the government pays the rest. So why would they bother to put in more capital for additional coaches and trains when they are already being subsidized by the government? Shouldn't the Department of Transportation and Communication tell them to bring in more trains to accommodate all the passengers? If they can carry all the passengers who want to ride them, the traffic below would diminish.

The railroad is transportation that can carry plenty of passengers and cargo. But the government has neglected the Philippine National Railways. Until the administration of President Diosdado Macapagal, the PNR was running from Damortis, La Union, to Legazpi, Albay. It even had first-class, air-conditioned buses ferrying passengers from Damortis to Baguio. Now the PNR is a shame. Why doesn't the government rehabilitate it? Invite the Japanese, who are the experts in bullet trains, to rehabilitate it.

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The tempting conclusion is that for countries like ours, democracy doesn't work, authoritarianism does. Lee Kuan Yew explicitly put it that way, mincing no words in criticizing "Western-style Philippine democracy." "Undisciplined" and "anarchic" are the least of the things he has called the Philippine press in particular.

Mahathir has been more circumspect in criticizing his liberal democratic neighbors but has not been shy about praising the virtues of "restraint" in his country. "Anarchy," he said in his farewell speech, "can take place because of an obsession with democracy. The belief that if democracy is implemented then everything will be well has no basis, especially if democracy is imposed immediately." He defended the detention without trial of suspects and the banning of communists from elections as essential to protecting the "interests of the majority."

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Vietnam syndrome

EDITORIAL

A FEW days after a missile downed a US Chinook helicopter in Iraq, killing 16 soldiers, Iraqi guerrillas mounted mortar attacks on a US Army camp in Baghdad, and killed one US soldier in Tikrit. The fresh attacks dramatized the increasing risks from guerrillas facing US occupation troops.

The casualties in the helicopter crash were the largest US death toll in any single action since the invasion of Iraq last March. The casualties in the period since the fall of Baghdad are larger than those during the invasion by the US-led coalition forces and are mounting. The attacks are likely to intensify, heightening the debate in the United States over America's resolve to stay the course in quelling the attacks and in establishing a stable democracy in Iraq.

Iraq remains a veritable weapons arsenal that can sustain guerrilla attacks. American officials estimate that nearly one million tons of weapons and ammunition are scattered in thousands of sites all over the country.

The presence of about 150,000 mostly American occupation troops incites the hatred of Iraqis. The hatred is such that even civilians who fraternize with occupation troops and security forces trained by the United States to restore order are the object of rising popular hostility.

The increasing casualties are raising questions in the United States as the 2004 presidential elections approach over whether more troops would be deployed in Iraq or withdrawn if the casualties became unacceptable to American domestic opinion. Withdrawal themes echo the US experience in Vietnam, where casualties were counted in the tens of thousands and in which it sank into the quagmire of an unwinnable guerrilla war. That quagmire so corrosively undermined the Lyndon Johnson presidency that he was forced to scuttle his reelection ambition.

Although the scale of the casualties in Iraq is relatively modest by comparison, the United States is paying a heavy economic cost for the reconstruction of Iraq. The Bush administration's request for $78 billion for aid to Iraq may be moving in Congress, but the Vietnam syndrome is starting to haunt President George W. Bush. He is under pressure to bring home more troops as soon as possible.

The Bush administration's answer to questions over increasing casualties is to understate the problem. Defense Secretary Ronald Rumsfeld said that the attacks would have no effect on the administration's determination to finish the job in Iraq. "We can win this war," he said. "We will win this war." But he himself conceded that the fight would be a "long, hard slog."

Rumsfeld has also acknowledged that "foreign troops in a country are unnatural… The goal is to keep them there only as long as they're needed, and not one day longer."

But all his statements have hardly assured the American public that the United States is not engaged in an expensive and unwinnable war.

The helicopter attack has given the Democratic Party ammunition to question Bush's foreign policy. Wesley Clark, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the presidency, has taken Bush to task for declaring the end of the military campaign in Iraq as early as May. Clark recalled that Bush had then declared, "Mission accomplished." "Yet," he said," "we still have no plan to bring peace to Iraq to protect our soldiers."

The increasing difficulties encountered by the United States in rebuilding the Iraqi economy, establishing an effective political authority led by Iraqis and in countering guerrilla attacks have eroded significantly Bush's popularity. The Iraqi question is gaining as much salience as the economy in the US debate leading to next year's presidential elections. As the elections near, these two issues are likely to determine the fate of Bush.

Bigger threat

FOREIGN COMMENT

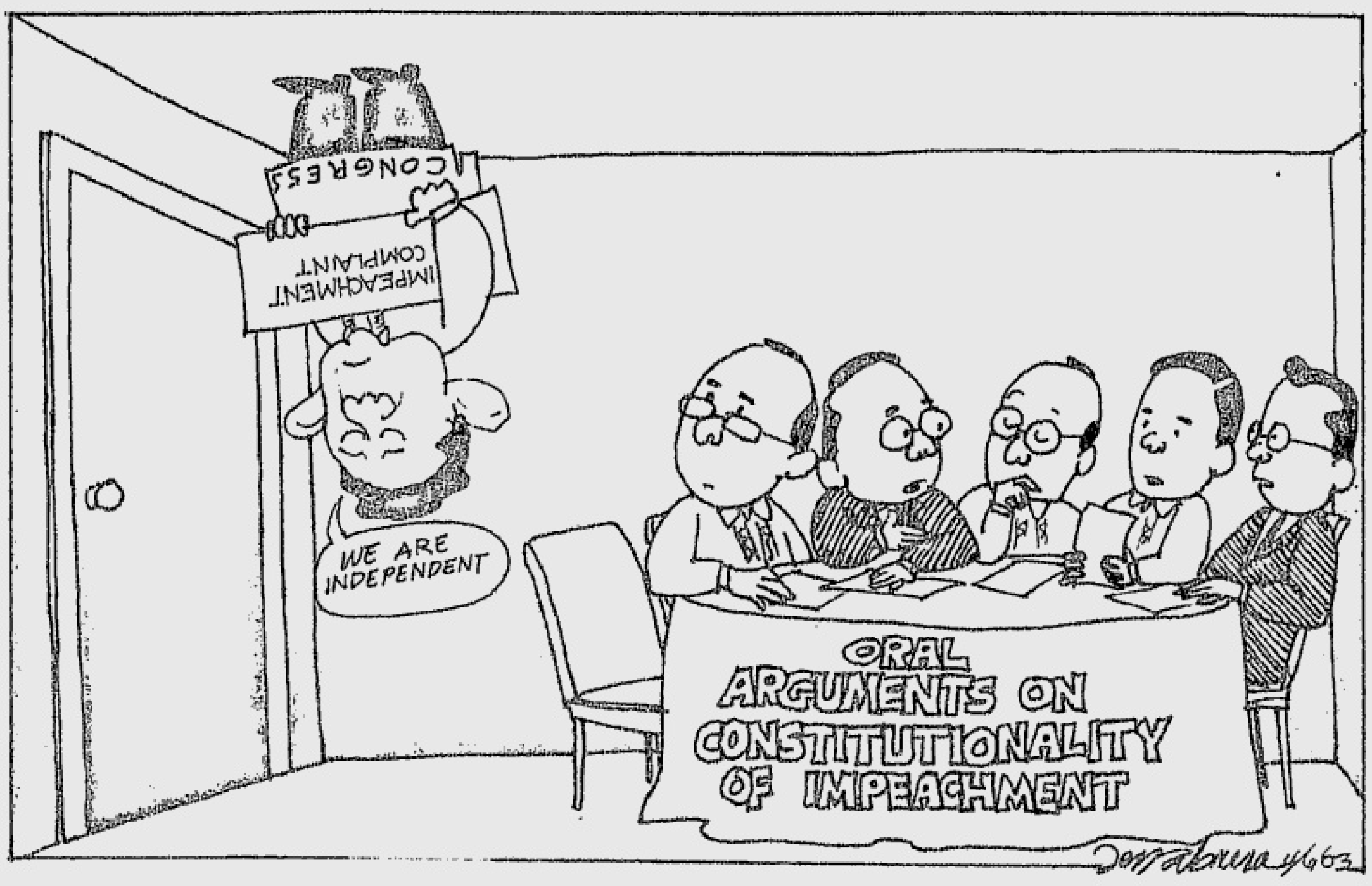
FROM THE BEGINNING it has been said that the United States must use a broad arsenal in which diplomatic, police, political and military efforts work together.

However, one problem from an American viewpoint is that the humility and willingness to cooperate that existed immediately after the terror attacks in New York and Washington was conspicuous by its absence during the diplomatic prelude to the Iraq war. Then the tone was significantly more self-confident than it is today.

It does not do any good, however, to dwell on all that has happened.

The outside world—including the United States—must act according to the reality which exists. And the reality is that an Iraq where terror is allowed to win becomes a bigger threat against international peace and security than Saddam Hussein's oppressive regime was.

Dagens Nyheter (Stockholm, Sweden)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Don't fence me in

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DON'T you feel fenced in with all the barriers scattered all over the streets of Metro Manila? Steel fences, concrete blocks, plastic barriers everywhere. But the traffic jams and jaywalking continue. They only make the suppliers of these barriers richer and the taxpayers poorer but they don't improve traffic.

Even the parks, which should be open to the public, are fenced in. In fact, the public is banned from the park in the triangle formed by Ayala Avenue, Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati. It is a fenced park you can only look at but never enjoy, like a toy locked inside a display counter which you cannot play with. These, plus the tall fences surrounding the palatial homes in the exclusive villages, make you feel hemmed in.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has tried everything to make traffic move faster—color coding, street widening, one-way streets, yellow boxes, yellow lanes, no left turn, no crossing, tow-away zones, U-turns everywhere, even urinating stations. But it hasn't thought of the only things that will lessen the traffic congestion: reducing the vehicles on the streets and providing more parking buildings. There are just too many vehicles with nowhere to park them, and too few streets.

Every month, thousands of new vehicles are churned out by the vehicle assemblers. Thousands more of imported second-hand vehicles pour in. Most of them end up in Metro Manila. Very few old vehicles are phased out. Filipino mechanics and body repairers can make them run forever. Look at the jeepneys which date back to World War II. Instead of diminishing, they are increasing. The ambition of most poor families is to have a jeepney or a tricycle. So if you keep pouring all these vehicles into Metro Manila without taking others out, time will come when no vehicle can move in the streets.

The fees paid for vehicle registration are supposed to be used for street construction and maintenance, but very few new streets are constructed. As my grandfather used to say, you can't put 10 pounds of sh-- in a five-pound bag. And that's what is happening in the urban areas. There are too many vehicles in too few streets.

Even when the vehicles are not being used, they contribute to clogging. They are parked not in garages or carports of their owners but out in the streets. Usually, only the residents of subdivisions have garages and carports, although in this age of multiple family vehicles, they also sometimes spill out into the streets. Drive around the residential streets of Metro Manila at night and you will find them filled with parked vehicles. In Tokyo, you can't buy a vehicle unless you can show a title to a garage. In New York, the fines for vehicles left out in the streets are so stiff, and the cost of parking is also so stiff, that New Yorkers refrain from owning vehicles. Anyway, public transportation is so plentiful in the Big Apple—subway, train, buses that run on schedule, taxicabs, rented limousines (but no tricycles)—that you don't need your own car.

Here free enterprise in public transport is the culprit, aided by a corrupt and inefficient Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). Any Tom, Dick and Harry can have a franchise for a jeepney, bus, taxicab or tricycle. (Franchises for tricycles are issued by local government units.) All of them operate on the "boundary" system. The driver pays a flat fee (the "boundary") to the owner and buys the gasoline and oil. What is left of his earnings after paying all these is his take home pay.

The rent for the jeepney or cab is usually for 12 hours, so the driver has to keep working or else he loses money. Competition is very keen. Drivers use all the tricks, violate traffic rules, and bribe cops to earn enough. And *tong* is what makes cops blind to the violations.

The bright spots are the elevated rails: the Metrorail and the Light Rail Transit. They are fast transportation above the traffic, and more people would like to use them. But they are always so full that commuters are forced to ride the buses which are almost always only half-full even if it takes them longer to reach their destinations. It would be common sense to bring in more trains and coaches. More passengers, more money.

But why are they not doing this? Because the private companies are guaranteed by the government a minimum income. If they don't earn this, the government pays the rest. So why would they bother to put in more capital for additional coaches and trains when they are already being subsidized by the government? Shouldn't the Department of Transportation and Communication tell them to bring in more trains to accommodate all the passengers? If they can carry all the passengers who want to ride them, the traffic below would diminish.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Imelda partying in Rome

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHERE is Imelda Marcos? The judge who gave her authority to travel beyond the United States is now in trouble. Recently I got a call from Filipino community leader and former House sectoral representative, Tomas Concepcion, who has been based in Rome for over 40 years now. He reported that Imelda was there to attend the beatification of Mother Teresa and the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's pontificate. It would have been a quiet visit had the Italian magazine Panorama not published an interview with her, centered mainly on her collection of 3,000 pairs of shoes. The magazine didn't fail to note that she was wearing a pair by Manolo Blahnik, who is known as the maker of shoes for Hollywood stars.

Judging from the news reports, it's obvious that 25 years later, Imelda still has the flair that never fails to enthrall the foreign media. After shopping at The Mall in Florence and at Rome's Via Condotti for signature stuff, she partied with her friends, including a fake Polish countess and her fake lawyer, Mario D'Urso, who calls himself "Conde de Manila" and dined at the Bolognese restaurant at Piazza del Populo with Marina Doria, wife of Prince Vittorio, who was reported some years back to have liberated a 20-year-old boy in Corsica by using a high powered rhino-hunting gun. Concepcion reported that Imelda raised her glass to the guests with the toast, "*Mabuhay*, to long life, to charity, and, why not, to luxury!"

* * *

Imelda's brief presence triggered memories of how she had allegedly breezed into the Eternal City one day with two *bauls*, one filled reportedly with $25 million in cash and the other with jewelry. Concepcion, who led a lot of the protests in Rome against the Marcoses, has his own recollection of the story about fashion arbiter Earl Blackwell arranging a dinner meeting between Imelda and Elizabeth Taylor, upon the former's request, as she was interested to see the dizzying diamond Richard Burton gave Liz. As the story goes, Liz arrived sans jewelry. Imelda asked her where the diamond was. In reply Liz crossed her legs and there it was, tied to her gorgeous ankle, with all the *sans souci* she could muster. Did Imelda get that diamond? Only the PCGG would know.

Years later, Concepcion recalled Jaime Cardinal Sin telling him how Taylor arrived in Manila incognito with a woman companion one day and saw him at his Mandaluyong residence. There she quietly handed Sin a check for his charities. "That was really charity," said Concepcion.

* * *

Twelve House members who earlier endorsed the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide have withdrawn their signatures, harkening to the appeal from the people to pull the nation from the brink of crisis. Many are praying that more lawmakers would withdraw from the complaint, which was obviously based on many erroneous perceptions of anomalous spending of the Judiciary Development Fund. Now that the explanations are coming out, we hope that those who don't share the political agenda of Eduardo Cojuangco's group would withdraw their signatures. The best way to avert the crisis is for the signatories to withdraw even before the Court can rule on the constitutionality issue, and send the complaint to the justice committee for a real study of the JDF, as Cebu Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez argued in the radio program I co-hosted with Cecile Alvarez. If the Court rules that the complaint is unconstitutional it's easy to predict how some groups in the House would react; but if it no longer has the needed 76 votes, such ruling becomes moot and academic. No more crisis.

* * *

During yesterday's hearing at the Supreme Court, among the many points former Constitutional Commissioner Regalado Maabong and former Senate President Jovito Salonga raised were technicalities that could affect the complaint. They argued that for the verified complaint to be valid, as provided in Sec. 3 (4) Art. 11 of the Constitution, it must be filed— and not merely endorsed—by at least one-third of the membership of the House. The two *amici curiae* maintained that only Representatives Gilbert Teodoro and Wimpy Fuentebella actually signed the complaint, with the other 86 or so merely "endorsing" it. Salonga stressed that each complainant ought to not only have signed the complaint but also attested before the House secretary general that he had read it and knew its contents, etc. In one TV interview Davide himself referred to reports that very few of the lawmakers filed a verified complaint. This could be one ground for questioning its validity.

* * *

The House position on the impeachment complaint must be truly too hot to handle, or how else does one explain why veteran lawyer Mario Ongkiko refused to appear as its counsel before the Supreme Court? Ongkiko was quoted as opining that he didn't want to throw away a "lifetime of hard legal work" in pleading for the House. Which means that he didn't believe in its position that the Supreme Court does not have a say on this impeachment case.

The same is true of Iloilo Rep. Arthur Defensor, who refused an assignment from Speaker Jose de Venecia to be part of the House legal panel. He told me that "I have to defer to my own personal evaluation of the issues." He said it is very difficult for him to defend something that's isn't his conviction. Defensor, who did not sign the impeachment complaint, stressed belief that the Supreme Court has the authority to rule on the constitutionality of the impeachment complaint, since it is the final arbiter of what's constitutional or not. He added that the wrongdoing attributed to Davide does not constitute an impeachable offense, although he opined that in issuing the status quo order, the Court "acted in excess of its authority."

Making a right start

COMMENTARY

Roberto C. Yap, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE RATIFICATION of the Kyoto Protocol was a breeze of cool air, refreshingly different from the haze and heat which have been emanating from the halls of the Senate. On Oct. 23, the Senate by a unanimous 19-0 vote concurred in the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, a treaty designed to tackle the threat of climate change and to stimulate clean energy investment globally.

The Philippines now joins 119 countries, including the European Union and many of its prospective members in Central Europe, Japan, Canada and most developing countries which have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Under Kyoto, the culmination of 10 years of global negotiations, governments agreed on an initial round of greenhouse gas emission targets for industrialized countries, together with market-oriented mechanisms for emission credits granted for clean energy investment.

Kyoto seeks to control climate change characterized by the rapid rise in temperature. Rising temperatures are being attributed to the glut of certain gases which trap heat in our atmosphere, like a greenhouse. In excess, these greenhouse gases hold in too much heat, block outward radiation and alter our climate. Carbon dioxide, released from burning fossil fuels, is the principal greenhouse gas. Fossil fuels (such as oil and coal) are burned by power stations, transport vehicles and factories. The reduction of carbon dioxide emissions has been deemed urgent and necessary to protect the climate.

Severe weather will become more of a problem for a tropical country of islands such as the Philippines as the patterns of floods, droughts, storms and precipitation are disrupted. Climate change would mean that our wet season will become wetter and our dry season drier.

Changes in climate will compromise our health and standards of living in many ways. Human health will be threatened by more heat waves and spreading vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. Our cities and towns will have to cope with more typhoons and floods. Our coastal areas will be diminished by the rise in sea level. Our drinking water will become contaminated by sea water. Droughts and the disruption of water supplies will wreck havoc on our agricultural productivity.

The impact of climate change can be quite devastating. Hence, measures to control climate change as proposed in the Kyoto Protocol can only be beneficial to the Philippines. We will benefit from efforts to combat global warming. The ratification of the Kyoto Protocol clearly serves Philippine national interest.

A mistaken concern is often raised that ratification of Kyoto would impose maximum standards on carbon dioxide emissions (and hence, caps on the use of fossil fuels) on the Philippines which we can ill-afford. Kyoto does not set emission-reduction targets for developing countries. Only industrialized countries (e.g., United States, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany) have emission-reduction commitments and rightly so, because they are the biggest polluters. Under Kyoto, developing countries like the Philippines have no legally binding emission-reduction targets.

But what is innovative about Kyoto is that it provides a mechanism by which developing countries can help industrialized countries meet their emission-reduction targets. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allows private entities or governments in industrialized countries to invest in emission-reduction projects in developing countries in order to receive carbon credits which they may count against their emission targets. In hosting CDM projects, developing countries will benefit from clean energy investments.

Through the CDM, the Philippines could receive new foreign investments in renewable energy such as solar, wind, biomass, micro-hydro and geothermal. Investments could also flow to projects in fuel switching (e.g., from diesel to natural gas), energy efficiency improvements (e.g., efficient lighting, efficient motors), capturing greenhouse gases from solid waste landfills. Afforestation and reforestation projects are also CDM-eligible.

CDM projects will entail not only carbon reductions but provide a wide range of sustainable development benefits. Sustainable development impacts could include reduction in air and water pollution through reduced fossil fuel use, promotion of cleaner technologies, improved watershed control and biodiversity protection, better solid waste management, provision of employment and livelihood opportunities.

In effect, the ratification of Kyoto makes the Philippines a beneficiary of environmentally friendly investments that will be facilitated by the CDM. We will receive new infusions of funds greatly required to make our economy greener.

In anticipation of possible CDM investments, a few clean energy projects in the Philippines are already in advanced stages of development. There is a wind-farm project in Northern Luzon. There is a bagasse-to-energy project in Western Visayas and a rice hull-to-energy project also in Western Visayas. With our ratification of Kyoto, more Philippine projects will be developed for CDM investors from industrialized countries.

Investments in clean technologies that will be facilitated by the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol could be the start of the shift to a more prosperous but less carbon-intensive economy. This much needed shift will be a long and arduous journey. The ratification of the Kyoto Protocol was a significant step in the right direction.

Annalena Tonelli

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"I WOULD never believe that my life is a sacrifice," she told Washington Post's David Brown 10 years ago. "It is an idea that makes me laugh. I often felt that there was nobody on earth who had such a privilege to be able to live like this."

Annalena Tonelli, 60, an Italian, was murdered last month in Somalia where she had spent more than 33 years as an aid worker.

I gazed at her face, framed by a blue scarf, in Time's Milestones section and read the short paragraph on her. I was so smitten by her words I wanted to know more about her. I turned to the Internet.

"To be able to live like this," she gushed. What a privilege for her to live among the poorest, sickest. A sacrifice? Are you kidding?

Ah, I wish I were similarly privileged with a call, "to be able to live like this," as she put it. Oh shucks, here we are, walking the mean streets, merely weaving words, hoping to bring life, too, in some way.

And I think of the individual Filipinos I myself have known up close and written about, those who thought nothing of the "sacrifices" in service of others, who poured out all they had, spilling out their very essence, so that others may live.

And I think, too, of the good-for-nothings, the scumbags in expensive suits who are making a mess of this country, toying with the people, exploiting the media, all in the name of "power and politics" as incoming Manila Archbishop Gaudencia Rosales put it. What a sacrilege.

I think of our own lowly paid doctors, many of whom are training to be nurses and caregivers, so that they can leave this woebegone country and earn more in nursing homes in rich countries. There they will take care of the old and the infirm who have money but have nobody.

Annalena was a lawyer with diplomas in tropical medicine, community medicine and TB control. She set up outreach clinics to support her battle against TB among the nomadic groups in Somalia. She ran a 200-bed hospital in Borama and put up a school for the deaf. She organized visits of surgeons that have restored sight to almost 4,000 people.

Unicef consultant and UK-based writer Maggie Black ("Death of a Nobody," "One World") wrote: "She chose invisibility and an almost surreal humility: she wanted the fewest possible barriers between herself and those she lived and worked among. She chose to be 'without a name, without the security of a religious order, without membership of any organization.' She avoided all status and recognition, accepting a prestigious award from the Pope for her services as a 'voluntary worker' only under heavy pressure from friends.

"A devout Christian among a wholly Muslim population, the only faith she ever proselytised was the doctrine of love."

Recently, Annalena received the Nansen Refugee Award from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It was "in recognition of her selfless dedication in the service of the Somali community, the majority of them returned refugees and displaced people."

"I have always tried to stay hidden and refused any publicity," Annalena said. She did accept the award hoping to refocus attention on Somalia's problems that had been overshadowed by other hotspots.

The award, presented last June in Geneva, included $100,000 for a project of the recipient's choice. Begun in 1954, the award is named after Fridtjof Nansen, a world-famous Norwegian polar explorer and the world's first international refugee official.

UNHCR chief Rudd Lubbers said: "Dr. Tonelli lives a modest life, eating the same food she gives her patients and she owns no property. Over the past three decades, and particularly in these troubled and rapidly changing times, her quiet devotion to helping those in need is living proof that individuals can still make a tremendous difference." Annalena took no payment for her work. She had been kidnapped once, subjected to beatings, banditry and death threats.

Black described Annalena as having had excellent relations with local mosque leaders. Two years ago, Annalena began work against female circumcision or excision of the external female genitalia. She was respectful of local customs but she put up a team that would persuade circumcisers to give up their practice and take up other causes instead.

More recently, she began AIDS/HIV care and prevention which was greatly appreciated by authorities, but not by those who had ancient attitudes towards the sick. Serious illness in the desert was considered a threat, Black explained, and in the old days, the infirm and dying were isolated and discarded.

Despite her efforts to be one with the poorest, Annalena was still considered an outsider, or *gal*. Once, her house was stoned because she had an HIV-positive mother brought from another district to her hospital.

Annalena was killed on the night of Oct. 5. A man, emerged from the shadows and fired two rounds at her forehead. (Verena Karrer, a Swiss worker, suffered the same fate last year. She was shot dead in the compound where she ran a school and a hospital.)

"Very rarely in a lifetime is one privileged to come across someone whose humanity and commitment are so transcendent, so stratospherically beyond the miserly measure most of us enjoy," wrote Black who visited Annalena in June. "Although she was, in her own mind, the simplest possible person—'I am nobody' is what she said—Annalena was extraordinary. In our fame-obsessed world, the death of this 'nobody' should not go unmarked."

Annalena Tonelli and our own beloved Sister Christine Tan (INQUIRER front page, 10/7/2003), friend of the poor, died within hours of each other.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Forgiven

YOUNG BLOOD

Maria Carmela S. Taguines

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FRESH from college, I grabbed the first job that came my way as a management trainee in a fast-food chain. That was six years ago, and since then I have had my share of dealing with all kinds of customers, from the kindest ones to the most difficult ones. In this business, one is trained to deal with each customer with utmost respect and courtesy. Customers are to be treated like kings and queens, for without them the business will fold up. And a satisfied customer is a nice reward for a long day's toil.

It happened on Easter Sunday this year. I was working the day shift and doing a routine check of the restaurant when a crew member approached me. She told me one of our customers wanted to speak with a supervisor.

I went up to the man who was standing at the far end of the counter. I introduced myself and asked him what he needed. He demanded that he be given ice for his drink.

I immediately told him I was sorry but ice was unavailable at the moment. I asked him politely if he hadn't been told about it before he ordered his drink.

He said he didn't want any explanations; what he wanted was ice. I repeated that we didn't have ice because our machine had broken down. I offered to get him ice from other sources but warned him that we couldn't guarantee its safety.

All the while he kept butting in, telling me to just produce some ice. To cool him down, I excused myself and asked someone to buy some ice.

When I went back to assure him that he would get what he wanted and to please just wait a little while longer, he started questioning my capacity as a supervisor. Angry, nasty words came out of his mouth. He called me uneducated, dumb and unfit for my job. And he was screaming for all the customers to hear.

I felt as if the world had stopped. I really felt insulted and humiliated. It was one experience I would not wish on even my worst enemy.

Days after that incident, I still felt shaken, unsure of how I would deal with our customers. My performance suffered and so did my relationship with my family (I was eight months pregnant at that time). I was asked by our customer service personnel to explain, and it helped that my immediate boss vouched for me.

A few months later, I called my husband and asked him to fetch me from work since I was having trouble catching a ride. It was raining hard and the way home was dark.

We were driving slowly when the bus ahead of us stopped to unload some passengers. We saw two children and two adults get off the bus and run toward a waiting shed. By the time they got to the shed, they were completely drenched.

Touched by their miserable condition, we stopped and offered them a ride. When I rolled down the window to invite them to hop in, I recognized the man who had abused me in the restaurant. After the briefest hesitation, the better part of me decided to do the right thing. We took all of them to their destination.

It was only when we reached home that I told my husband everything. In the end, we agreed that we should be happy to have been of help.

Three days later, when I reached our restaurant, the guard handed me a note. It read:

"I am sorry it took me until that night to realize how much I have wronged you. I am also sorry it took me another three days to acknowledge your kindness. My family and I thank you and wish you well."

Maria Carmela S. Taguines, 26, works as an assistant manager of a restaurant in Capas, Tarlac.

Death wish

Andrea B. Renevera

THIS may sound too morbid, but I am sure I am not the only one who has said it: I want to die.

I am 21, and already I want to leave this cruel world. I have wished for death so many times before.

I admit that I am a weak soul. I give up when I face problems that look larger than life. Nevertheless, I still want to please God and this is why I cannot commit suicide. Besides I grow even weaker when I see blood and that's why I have not entertained the thought of slashing my wrists.

I graduated from college five months ago and I've started working. I'm fairly contented with all that I have now, but I don't see much point in living. If not for my parents, I would have given up sooner.

I don't see the light of life, I don't hear wedding bells in the distant future, I haven't felt butterflies in my stomach. I must have been carved out of a block of wood.

I do love God, and just before I close my eyes at night, I always tell Him to take care of my soul when the moment comes. It's like I am urging Him to take me now.

I have this crazy idea in my head that I don't belong here. It's like this is just an interval, with me waiting to go somewhere. I always half-expect the ground to open up and swallow me whole in the middle of the street. Am I crazy, or am I crazy?

Some of my friends say I'm close to being "*praning*." They can throw in schizophrenia as well. I suffer from depression more often than normal people do. Following a friend's advice, I have stopped drinking coffee, but still I feel depressed.

What is there to live for? My life is a constant struggle and defeat. My heart and eyes are too tired and heavy from crying.

Sorry if I am causing the readers depression with my gibberish, but I don't have any other outlet. Writing is my only way to tell the world what's inside me. So I beg for the readers' understanding and sympathy.

I have never been truly in love in my whole pathetic life, although I want to believe I did once or maybe twice. But everyone says love is not love unless it is shared. I have loved and received nothing in return, not even a glance. Another failure, another reason to cry, another reason to want to die.

Maybe I am wrong to expect life to give me happiness, but everyone is entitled to even just a minute of it, right? So why am I the exception?

Impossible though it may seem, this is not a lie. I truly want to pass away and rest. I need it more than anything else.

I don't want to stand by and watch while the whole world crumbles beneath my feet. I want to go now, when it is not yet too late, when I can still see the sun rise and set, when the world is not yet in total chaos. I want to keep that picture in my heart and bring it with me to the life beyond where I will have eternal rest.

Andrea B. Renevera, 21, is an AB mass communication graduate of AMA Computer College.

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Shortage of linens and gowns at PGH?

CLAIMING to be the premier tertiary hospital, one of the missions of the Philippine General Hospital is "to be the role model for health care delivery in the country." However, as the reader will come to realize in what follows, there exists a sharp disjunction between what is worded and what is actualized. This is a crisis—for that is the word that adequately describes the phenomenon that has plagued this institution for far too long.

As of March 2003, PGH has been experiencing a severe shortage of operating linens and gowns which are essential to execute a safe and hygienic operation. All non-charity patients are currently being asked to purchase commercialized linens and gowns while about a third of the charity patients have to do the same before being operated on. A set of these commercialized items costs at least P1,800—money which could have been spent instead for the medication of the patient. All of the surgical departments are affected by this shortage. The costs could run up to P736,000 per month which means that more than P4.4 million has been spent on commercialized gowns since March.

Keep in mind that those who are able to use PGH linens are not to be envied. The majority of these linens should have been condemned already.

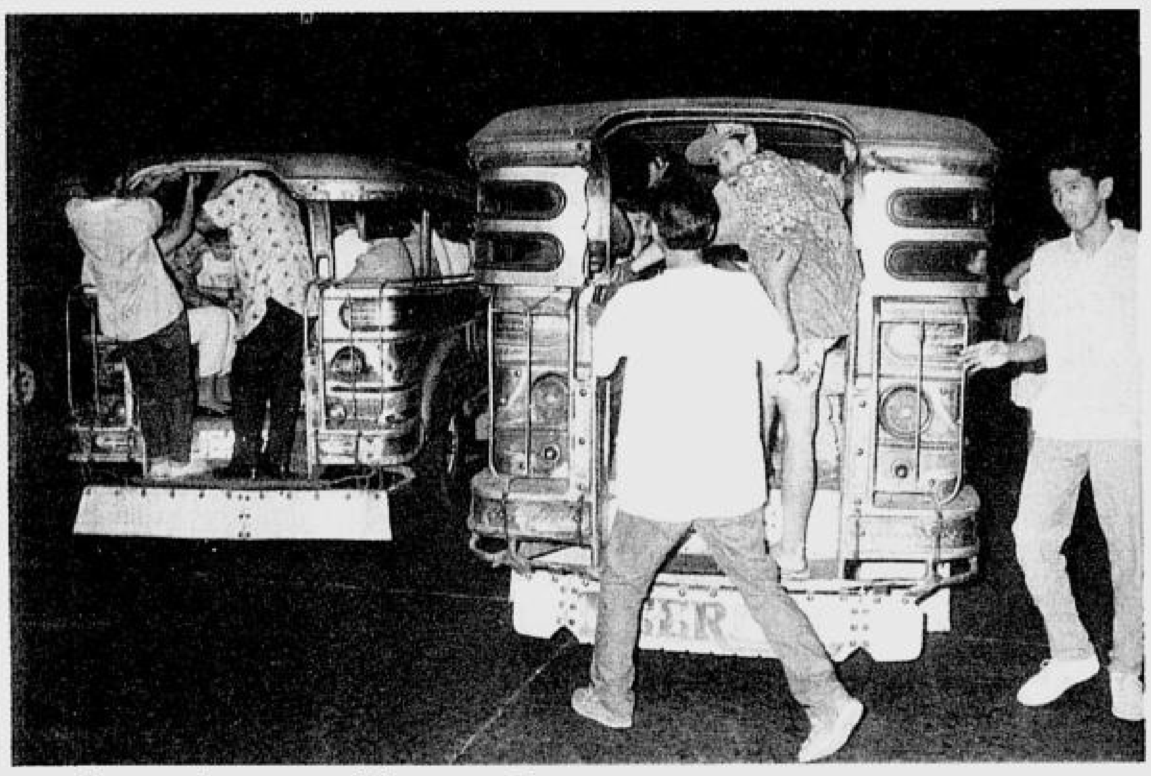
To be fair, the administration has indicated that money has already been allocated for the purchase of these operating room necessities and that it will be released in three months. It is interesting to note at this point, however, that the administration said this in April 2003.

Adding to the cost of purchasing linens and gowns, basic laboratory tests such as CBC and blood chemistries have to be "outsourced" to private laboratories surrounding PGH because its own laboratory sorely lacks reagents to perform these tests. Unfortunately, these private laboratories charge about 100 to 200 percent higher than that of PGH's rates. Other essential items that have sometimes been out of stock are intravenous lines and fluids, gloves, operating sponges, needles, caps and masks. The anesthetic of choice because of its low cost, isoflurane, has also been unavailable at certain times. Patients who need this would have to buy it at the cost of P3,500, illegally. Even the sterilizing machine, which basically sterilizes the surgical instruments needed for an operation, has been malfunctioning for the past two years.

Scheduled operations would sometimes have to be postponed because of the unavailability of linens and gowns or an anesthetic. In the emergency room, where a quick response is essential for the survival of the patient, some patients are not immediately operated on simply because the linens there are reserved for more serious trauma cases. This represents a tremendous and unforgivable disservice to the patients of PGH who needlessly have to bear the costs and risks.

The inability of PGH to deliver adequate medical and health services to its patients drives a wedge between its aspiration to bridge the gap between the poor and quality health care. Under these dire circumstances, it is difficult to imagine PGH realizing its vision to become the "center of excellence and leadership in health care, training and research that creates an impact on health policies."

—DON R. PALOYO, M.D.
president,
Physician's Association,
UP-Philippine General Hospital,
Taft Avenue, Manila



Packing them in like sardines

IS there no regulation against jeepneys filling in their seats more than their capacity? This has been the practice in jeepney terminals. Drivers seem to have conspired with the so-called barkers so that even if passengers inside the jeep are already shoulder-to-shoulder, they'd still call in *"dalawa pa, magkabila!"* and tap the jeep's sides telling the passengers to *"paki-ipit lang po, para makaalis na kayo!"*

And so the last two passengers to come in are forced to squeeze just a portion of their bottoms into the space left. Very uncomfortable positions but they are required to pay the full fare.

—MAYA N. SORIANO,
Pasig City

Taunts and other tactics in basketball

INQUIRER columnist Ramon J. Farolan's column of Oct. 5, 2003 (on verbal assaults being practiced in basketball games) should make professional basketball players bow their heads in shame. But I doubt though if they'd ever feel this way.

Verbal assaults on a rival team's players have become an accepted practice in Philippine basketball. The first time I saw it was during an inter-company game where my former employer competed. While a player would be aiming for his charity shots, a rival player would be behind him muttering, *"Wala 'yan!"* and *"Gago, gago ka talaga!"* I was sure because I was within hearing distance.

Richard Gomez's run-in with Jinggoy Estrada during a celebrity basketball game was sparked by the same verbal assaults being hurled by rival players. Gomez justified his taunting as "part of the game" and "that's the way it is in basketball," meaning it is already an accepted practice to hurl insults or even physically hurt one another.

That is why I was speechless at the sight of the Ateneo players on the bench during the second game of La Salle-Ateneo, holding hands while holding a rosary and praying intently with eyes closed that the Lord would grant them victory in that game. This while their team members who are playing employ evil tactics to win the game at all costs.

The worst part is the interview of the winning team after the game. This is when they shout to high heavens their thanks to God Almighty for their victory. This while the dirty tactics they employed during the game is still fresh in the viewers' memory. Such a cute bunch of hypocrites!

—ENRIQUE G. LABAYEN
Sta. Teresita Village,
Marikina City

Unseemly judicial reaction to petition

JUDGE Ricardo R. Rosario of RTC Branch 66 of Makati City had harangued a political detainee, Marlon Ompoc, at his case hearing. This had been prompted when Marilyn Miller, an Amnesty International member from the United Kingdom visited Ompoc and his co-accused, William Alagundi and Rudy Villareal, at the Makati City Jail to ask about the prison condition of the said detainees. The latter spoke of their long detention and the agony of their families. They further said that they felt freeing them from detention is very far behind due to the recurring postponements and cancellation of their court hearings. Therefore, they requested Miller to write to the judge and the Chief Justice to ask for a speedy trial on their case.

However, instead of answering Miller's letter and explaining the reason behind the postponement, Judge Rosario ordered Ompoc, being a principal accused, to write a letter to Miller retracting his previous statement on the issue.

Thus, this kind of harassment by a nominated judge for a justice seat makes us think and wonder if human rights and justice are being really practiced by the people who should uphold these. Can we still expect a fair decision on the case? Can we still hope for justice?

—BRENDA REYES-DE GUZMAN
regional staff,
Task Force Detainees
of the Philippines-National
Capital Region, 45 St. Mary St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

Height of injustice

WE, the undersigned, are members of the Philippine Bar in good standing. We are writing to express our unconditional support for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and denounce in the strongest terms the malicious attacks made against the Honorable Chief Justice. To be sure, the impeachment complaint filed against the Chief Justice is clearly bereft of any basis and was filed simply to sow chaos and disenchantment with the judiciary as an institution. As members of the Philippine Bar, we cannot, and should not, allow unwarranted attacks against the judiciary.

Obviously, politics is behind the present attacks against the Chief Justice. Considering that the detractors of the Chief Justice could not find any evidence to justify their previous impeachment complaint, they had to concoct stories if only to make it appear that there is basis for their present complaint. This is the height of injustice!

It should be emphasized that under Article XI, Section 3 (5) of the 1987 Constitution, it is specifically provided that "xxx No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year xxx." That said provision of the Constitution is written in such plain and simple English that it cannot be misunderstood. It is a basic precept in law that if a provision of the law is clear, there can be no room for interpretation. Thus, it amazes us no end why the detractors of the Chief Justice are providing their own interpretation of the said provision of the Constitution, which provision, to reiterate, is very clear.

We ask the detractors of Chief Justice Davide to be more circumspect and judicious in their actions. The present impeachment complaint serves no purpose but to further deteriorate the volatile situation in the country. The Philippines is plagued with more than enough problems which need immediate attention.

—JESS ANTHONY Q. YU, ELENITA
L. ESGUERRA AND AURORA
REMEDIOS GULOY-PAR,
legal_counsellors@yahoo.com

Governance much unlike moviemaking

FERNANDO Poe Jr. is a good actor, he's admired by millions of moviegoers—myself included, and that is his job. Acting in front of the camera and entertaining his fans are his best field. Now a major change is about to happen, from being an actor, Poe is being coaxed to seek the presidency in the 2004 elections.

A good president is one who could lead his constituents into the path of economic prosperity, unity and peace. He must be armed with professional competence, literacy and experience in public administration and foreign relations, and strength to unite us. For an actor to cross the road into politics for the very first time in his life and with the present economic situation of the country, I must say that Poe is not the one we need to move this country a level higher.

Our life is no drama, there are no directors, no cuts and no take twos. Everything is real, we have actual problems that need special solutions, solutions that cannot be achieved by mere popularity and charisma.

—RONALD G. LINTAG,
ronald_lintag@yahoo.com

UP alone holds title to Arboretum

PLEASE allow me to clarify some issues on the squatting problems hounding the UP Arboretum, about which news items have come out in your newspaper.

For the record: last Oct. 1, almost three months after they were evicted last July 3, around 200 individuals massed in front of the Arboretum. Once again, they sought to stake their claim on the property on the strength of the writ of preliminary injunction issued by Judge Rogelio Pizarro of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 22 last Sept. 30.

May I point out, however, that the writ of preliminary injunction is merely a reiteration of Pizarro's April 22 ruling and does not, in any way, concern the University of the Philippines as it is addressed to two other equally bogus Arboretum claimants—Jorge Chin and Renato Mallari—and Maj. Bernie Baltazar, head of the UP Task Force on Squatting, Community Housing and Utilities, in his personal capacity. The squatters claim that Baltazar is collaborating with Chin and Mallari, thus the injunction against him.

But as far as UP is concerned, notwithstanding Pizarro's April 22 and Sept. 30 orders, it has the freedom to protect the Arboretum, as it did when it evicted the intruders last July 3. It also means that UP is free to seek the assistance of the PNP and SWAT in carrying out eviction campaigns. Pizarro himself made this clear in one of the hearings he conducted on the Arboretum squatting problems last May.

UP officials are also surprised by Pizarro's latest order since the university's legal office had just filed a case against the judge for issuing the April 22 writ of preliminary injunction that inadvertently encouraged the intruders to invade the Arboretum for more than two months. The intrusion resulted in negative publicity and demoralization in the UP community. The motion asking Pizarro to inhibit himself from the Arboretum case is now in the Supreme Court. As of this writing, however, the Supreme Court has yet to make a decision on the matter.

Let me remind everyone that the Arboretum is a property of the government—titled to UP—and no one else's. All the private "titles" presented by various parties laying claim to it have been declared spurious by no less than the Supreme Court. No one can sell this land, not even UP, without the approval of Congress and the President of the Philippines.

—PRISCELINA P. LEGASTO,
assistant vice president for public affairs and director, UP System Information Office, UP Campus,
Diliman, Quezon City

Southeast Asia's strongmen (2)

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST Tuesday I began to write about Southeast Asia's contemporary strongmen, which included our own Ferdinand Marcos, Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew, Indonesia's Suharto and Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, who retired just last Saturday after 22 years in power.

Of the four countries that experimented with authoritarianism, Malaysia and Singapore fared well, so much so that neighboring countries often point to them as models. Filipino politicians, in particular, prate endlessly about how we need to be as disciplined as Singaporeans, with hints that they are ready to step into the shoes of a benign dictator, if necessary, to lead the Philippines to prosperity.

Authoritarian rule is tempting but it is dangerously simplistic to credit Malaysia's and Singapore's progress to strongman rule alone. We forget, for example, that Singapore is a city-state, with a population less than half that of Metro Manila and with one ethnic group—the Chinese—comprising the vast majority.

There is, of course, more to governance than the size of a country. I feel that what made Lee and Mahathir so successful was not their ruling with an iron fist as their ability to negotiate a social contract with their constituents. After all, there were other Southeast Asian countries such as Burma, Cambodia and Laos that had even more harsh dictatorships but these countries floundered, precisely because of the complete absence of democratic institutions to challenge their dictators' disastrous economic and political programs.

In contrast, Southeast Asia's strongmen often had a strong sense of history, knowing that they would be judged later on their leadership. Marcos, too, had this sense of history but never developed the accountability that other leaders had. An even more important difference was that from the time they declared independence, the leaders of Malaysia (Malaya at that time), Singapore and Indonesia carved out a unifying national ideology and built a strong political party committed to that ideology.

This visionary approach was particularly important because of the tribal, ethnic and religious divisions that accompanied the births of Southeast Asian countries. As I mentioned in my last column, Indonesia alone has some 300 ethnic groups. The role then of the Southeast Asian strongman was to become a kind of paramount tribal chief, able to respect the many different groups and yet assert authority over them.

I am not a fan of Mahathir or Lee but I have to say both, as well as Suharto, were masters of statecraft, balancing diverse and often conflicting interests. Malaysia and Singapore were less developed than we were in the 1950s, but both have since surged far ahead of the Philippines, thanks in part to long-term economic visions that also emphasized the common good.

We tend to credit their success to capitalism but in reality, their development models were more of a mixture of a welfare state with free market economics. Lee's socialist background from his younger years shows in the program he mapped out for Singapore, with a womb-to-tomb package of services for citizens. Malaysia also has strong state support for social services. In contrast, the Philippines chose a free market model more like that of the United States, oblivious to the fact that so many Filipinos were wallowing in poverty, unable to compete with the oligarchs.

Mahathir launched his controversial "bumiputra" policy, which gave priority to ethnic Malays with economic loans, schooling and other government services. My Malaysian-Chinese friends complained endlessly about the policy but would admit it was needed, a way to provide a much-needed headstart for ethnic Malays.

Mahathir pushed for Malaysia's economic modernization, but refused to follow a Western model, even standing up against the global economic czars. When the Asian financial crisis broke out in 1997, he was the only leader in the region to disregard the International Monetary Fund's prescriptions for economic recovery. He imposed controls on capital flow and exchange rates, even as the IMF warned that this would lead to Malaysia's collapse. In the end, Malaysia weathered the financial storm quite well, certainly much better than the more IMF-compliant countries such as the Philippines.

Mahathir pushed for Malaysia's economic modernization, but also knew this would bring heavy opposition from religious fundamentalists. His anti-Western rhetoric was really part of his "performance" as a leader, pushing for a model of modernization while upholding "traditional" values. A few weeks back there was an uproar in the international media over a speech where he made anti-Semitic comments. Curiously other parts of his speech, where he lashed out as well at Muslim terrorists, were not picked up all. Taken as a whole, the speech was another example of how Mahathir was playing to his diverse constituencies.

It is not surprising that Lee and Mahathir left office amid profuse praise and sadness, so unlike the way Suharto and Marcos were drummed out of power. The reason for the contrast is well known: Lee and Mahathir led by example. Lee was clean, all through his 32 years in power. Mahathir left office amid allegations of crony capitalism but nothing on the scale of Marcos and Suharto, who continue to top the global league for kleptocracy, examples of how absolute power corrupts absolutely.

To summarize then, Southeast Asia's successful strongmen achieved what they did not so much by wielding an iron fist as by being able to use their power to unite citizens around a national vision and to deliver on their promises of national development. Mahathir, for all his faults, leaves a Malaysia that is considered among Asia's little dragons.

Marcos ushered in his "New Society" with slogans like "*Sa ikaunlad ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan* (To progress, we need discipline)." Twenty years of Marcos, and the 18 years that followed him, we remain a nation that is economically and morally bankrupt, divided, without a vision. Amid the current crisis, the totalitarian temptation remains real. We need to learn, from Marcos and Suharto, as well as from Lee and Mahathir, that the last thing we need now are leaders vowing discipline and a "strong republic."

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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All 6 Bicol governors turn Lakas

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

HAS presidential aspirant Raul Roco lost Bicol to President Macapagal-Arroyo?

It would seem so after all six governors of Roco's home region yesterday took their oath of membership to the ruling party Lakas-CMD before the President herself.

Governors Al Francis Bichara of Albay, Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur, Jesus Tipoco of Camarines Norte, Raul Lee of Sorsogon and Antonio Kho of Masbate took their oath during a ceremony at the Salceda Sports Center in Polangi, Albay where the President was guest speaker.

Bichara, Tipoco and Vercelles are already members of Lakas but they joined the oath-taking to "reaffirm" their membership and apparently to dramatize the significance of all six Bicol governors standing on the side of the President.

Villafuerte and Lee were formerly members of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino while Kho was from Rene de Villa's Reporma Party.

The oath-taking provided the political aspect to the President's visit to the Bicol region yesterday.

But she was quick to downplay the incident.

Asked about the oath-taking of the six governors, Ms Macapagal asserted that while she is head of the ruling party she was in Bicol as President.

She said she was leaving party matters to Lakas officials.

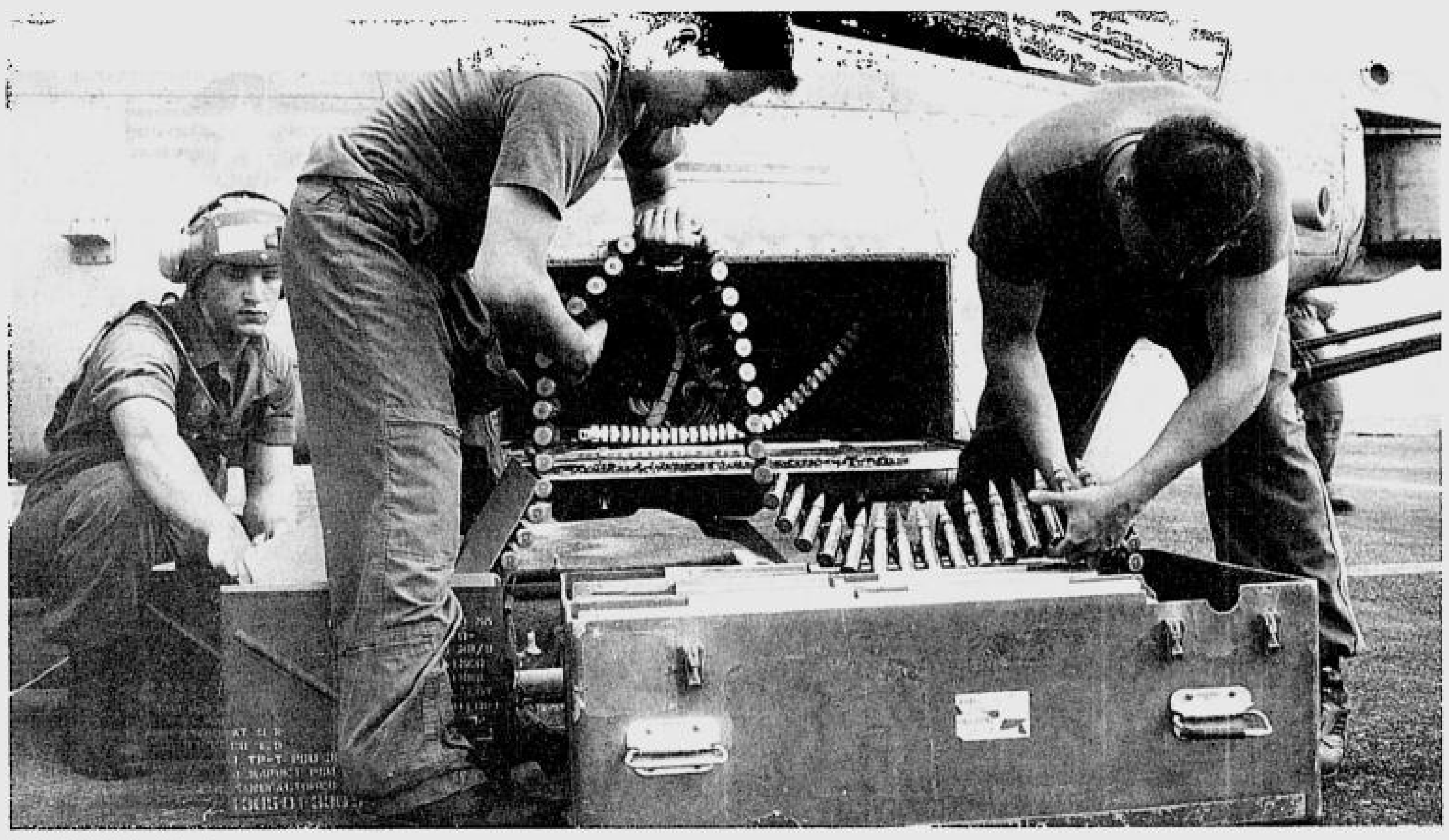
Presidential political liaison officer Jose Ma. Rufino confirmed that the six governors would support the President in the May 2004 presidential elections.

"They are not supporting Roco. They will try their best to make GMA win," Rufino said when asked if the governors could deliver the votes of their constituencies to Ms Macapagal.

Palace sources said the six governors would come out with a manifesto expressing support to Ms Macapagal and explaining why they would not vote for Roco.

"People assume that Bicol will go to Roco but this is not true," Rufino said.

He said the support took shape as early as last year when Roco quit the Cabinet and began attacking Ms Macapagal.



AFP

AMMUNITION
US Marines load bullets onto a Cobra helicopter in preparation for new war games with Philippine soldiers in Clark. At least 900 US troops are in Clark for the exercises aimed at improving antiterrorism tactics of the Philippine military.

Dutch investor apologizes for accusing mayor of bribe

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The controversial Dutch investor in the town of Glan, Sarangani province swallowed his pride and apologized to the town officials apparently to save his multi-million investments from going down the drain.

Johans Kooring, accompanied by former Dutch Ambassador Theo Arnold, Board of Investments member Tony Leviste and Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) alien control officer Ernesto Mercado, went to the town hall of Glan on Monday to personally convey his apology to the local officials of Glan.

Kooring, who poured in more than P100-million investments in the town, was prevented early this year by the BID from returning to the country after the municipal council declared him persona non grata.

The Dutchman's posh hotel-resort complex was about 85 percent finished but the construction was stalled when the BID included him in the black list of undesirable aliens.

He filed a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman in Mindanao accusing mayor Enrique Yap Jr. of asking bribe money.

The mayor, however, denied the accusation.

The meeting between Kooring and town officials concluded without reaching any agreement.

During the dialogue, Kooring asked the members of the municipal council to repeal the resolution declaring him persona non grata.

The municipal council has yet to decide on Kooring's request.

A BID official said BID Commissioner Andrea Domingo might lift the ban on Kooring if the city council decides to repeal the resolution.

Kooring was granted a four-week temporary visa to give him a chance to settle his differences with the local officials of Glan. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Station goes off air

DUMAGUETE CITY—Silliman Radio, the pioneer radio station in Negros Oriental, has gone off the air. All its 11 staff members were terminated effective Oct. 16. Citing financial difficulties, the management of dySR shut down the radio station's pending negotiations with another company, which would lease the station that was in existence for 53 years. The staff members of dySR, including station manager Nancy Ugsad-Estolloso, have filed charges of illegal dismissal before the National Labor Relations Commission in Dumaguete. DySR, founded in 1950, is owned by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, the umbrella organization of protestant denominations in the country.
Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

New ferry terminal

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) plans to build a fast ferry terminal in front of the Silliman University but this time without resorting to reclamation that was strongly opposed by residents, environmentalists and university officials. Felix Barcala, newly installed PPA-Dumaguete manager, said the fast ferry terminal will be built on piles and will have its own passenger terminal and parking area that will accommodate 60 cars. Based on the plan of the proposed fast ferry terminal, it will measure 129 by 69 meters, leaving the sea in front of the Silliman campus untouched. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Court saves hotel

ILOILO CITY—The biggest hotel on Panay Island was saved from foreclosure by its creditor-banks after the Iloilo Regional Trial Court (RTC) approved its rehabilitation plan. Judge Alfonso Combong Jr. of RTC Branch 39 ordered the restructuring of all loans of the Sarabia Manor Hotel Corp. (SMHC) totaling P208.5 million. The SMHC owns the Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel Convention Center, the biggest hotel in Panay, which started operating in 1972. With its 184 rooms and several function areas, the hotel regularly hosts conventions and meetings. The court order prevented the Bank of the Philippine Islands, SMHC's biggest creditor, from demanding immediate payment of loans amounting to P199.14 million. The order approved the rehabilitation plan submitted by court-appointed receiver Liberty Valderrama, which provided an amortization scheme for 17 years or until 2019.
Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

Excellence award

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A barrio leader from this town won first place at the 2003 Regional Search for Konrad Adenauer Medal of Excellence. Norvic D. Solidum, Barangay San Vicente chair, was chosen Best Punong Barangay for excellent conduct of leadership in terms of accountability, responsiveness and management innovations, among other criteria. Barangay San Vicente also won as the Best Managed Barangay in Southern Tagalog due to Solidum's effective leadership. Konrad Adenauer was the resolute chancellor of post-war Federal Republic of Germany until 1953. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DENR assails court softness on environment offenses

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A top official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Monday assailed the legal procedures applied by regional trial court judges that have supposedly "cut the teeth" of forestry laws.

Antonio Principe, DENR Cagayan Valley director, questioned how judges apparently tolerated the "devious" scheme being used by lawyers of illegal loggers who resort to entering a guilty plea to bargain for a lesser penalty.

Principe cited the Oct. 21 decision of Judge Vincent Eden. Panay of the RTC branch 30 here, which fined Vicente Evangelista P15,000. Evangelista pleaded guilty to charges of illegal logging.

The case stemmed from the interception of a van loaded with about P22,400 worth of undocumented narra lumber owned by Evangelista at a DENR checkpoint in Aritao town in June.

Principe expressed disgust over the "very light" penalty on Evangelista who was charged with violation of section 77 of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Reform Code. Principe said such offense is punishable by imprisonment of not more than 40 years.

Under the procedure followed by the courts here, Principe said, persons accused often enter a guilty plea, but for a lesser offense of violation of section 81 of the same law, which is destruction of wildlife resources.

Panay, however, stood by his decision.

"That is basically the essence of the principle of plea bargaining. We don't think we have committed a procedural error because we give out the penalty based on an offense that is provided for under the same law," he said.

Panay said sections 77 and 81 were "relatively similar" in intent as both deal with the illegal cutting, gathering and destruction of forest products.

RTC Executive Judge Jose Godofredo Naui shared Panay's position.

"The DENR should not blame the court because plea bargaining agreements are entered into by (all) parties—the prosecution, which includes the aggrieved party, the DENR and the accused," Naui said.

"The court renders the decision because the DENR, in the first place, accepted the offer of the accused to a plea bargain," he said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army says it found 2 camps of NPA

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Government troops discovered two abandoned camps of the New People's Army in Mindoro and Quezon on Monday, military reports said.

Maj. Jose Broso, public information officer of the Army's Southern Luzon Unified Command, said soldiers under 2nd Lt. Manolito Catungal discovered an abandoned rebel camp in the vicinity of Barangay Mabagto in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro.

The camp has 40 bunkers that can accommodate at least three persons each.

The military also reported the discovery of another NPA camp in Mauban, Quezon.

The report said the three-hectare NPA camp had six bunkers, eight foxholes and a strategically located command post. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Army urged to treat prisoners well

BUTUAN CITY—The National Democratic Front in Mindanao (NDF-Mindanao) has called on the military to ensure the fair and humane treatment of two ranking rebels now being held in its custody.

NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge Madlos alias Ka Oris said the military was obliged to accord prisoners of war (POWs) a just and humane treatment as provided for by the Geneva Convention.

"They should treat them humanely, not like an animal (sic)," Madlos said.

Citing military's poor track record in upholding human rights, Madlos said he feared that Dionisio Micabalo alias Ka Cardo, alleged party secretary of NPA's Front Committee 88, and his wife Lorna, a finance officer of the rebels' 4A Front Committee based in Agusan del Sur, would be subjected to torture and harsh treatment while undergoing interrogation.

Madlos added it was about time for the military to reciprocate the humane treatment the rebel group has accorded captive soldiers and militiamen.

Top military officials gave assurances that there would be no maltreatment of suspected NPA leaders who would be arrested for involvement in the rebellion and rebel underground activities.

"The AFP assures them of humane treatment while under military custody," Lt. Col. Narciso Alamag, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro, said.

Acting on tips from disgruntled rebels, government forces swooped on a safe house in Barangay Buhangin here, which was owned by Daniel Ruaya, a Bayan Muna member and town councilor of San Luis town in Agusan del Sur, and arrested the couple last week. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bulacan gov willing to share IT success

BULACAN Gov. Ma. Josefina "Josie" dela Cruz yesterday stressed the importance of information technology (IT) in reinventing the bureaucracy after the province became a model of e-governance not only for other local government units (LGUs) but also other countries.

In a statement, Dela Cruz, who is now in Mexico to address the 5th Global Forum on Reinventing Government, said no less than 33 provinces and 18 countries have visited Bulacan to look at the IT program being implemented in the province.

"The most popular component of the Reinventing Public Service is the Information Technology (IT) which is presently replicated in other provinces and local government units (LGUs) through memorandum of agreement (MOA)," Dela Cruz said.

She said Bulacan is very willing to share with other LGUs the information system software it developed.

Meet on key C. Luzon project turns ugly

THE HEAD of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority is planning to file charges for an assault he suffered during a conference on the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (SCAD) held at the National Economic and Development Authority offices.

Rufo Colayco, according to a statement released by his office, was attacked by a certain Rely Javier, a leader of the Subic Bay Resort Association, a group associated with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, during a break in the meeting.

Colayco, architect of the SCAD, and Felicito Payumo, head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), encountered a hostile crowd packed in two buses allegedly brought to the meeting venue by Gordon.

Colayco, Payumo, Gordon and his wife Kate, mayor of Olongapo, exchanged heated words over the SCAD during the meeting.

During a break, Kate allegedly confronted Colayco and told him: "You are insulting us too much. Why do you refer to the Subic airport as the Gordon's beloved airport?"

Colayco replied by saying there was nothing personal against the Gordons involved in the SCAD.

At that point, Javier, according to the statement, threw punches at Colayco which Colayco was able to parry.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri intervened and ushered in Colayco to his office.

But supporters of Gordon stayed at the Neda parking lot waiting for Colayco to come out. Neri decided to bring Colayco out of the building through a backdoor and had a Neda car whisk off the BCDA chair.

Prior to the attack on Colayco, Payumo was also assaulted by two men who was identified to be among the two busloads of Gordon supporters.

Payumo was heckled and answered the hecklers back. Shortly after two men from the group of hecklers tried to assault Payumo but was prevented by Payumo's close-in security detail.

Gordon, who is also concurrent adviser to the President on regional development for Central Luzon, is demanding the relocation of a port in Subic that is part of the SCAD.

Colayco had insisted that the port is key to creating a new economic frontier in Central Luzon and is a major component of the SCAD.

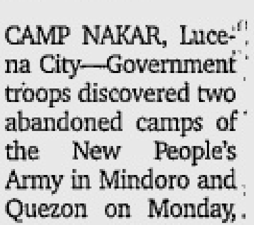
The BCDA is responsible for building a 94.5-km tollway project that would link Subic, Clark and Tarlac province.

The meeting was called by the Neda to resolve the conflict between Gordon and the architects of the SCAD.

But the meeting turned into a verbal tussle and physical assault following the entry of Gordon's alleged supporters.

Gordon was the former head of the SBMA.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE
IT is exactly 542 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Mangyan school gasping for survival

By Madonna T. Virola
Baco, Oriental Mindoro

SOME of the adult Mangyan students pose with their principal Sally Melendrez-Valenton (standing 6th from left), and two of their teachers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A RELEVANT education is seen as an improvement in the Mangyan culture and life as well as their safeguard from being taken advantage of, particularly on matters of their ancestral land.

The hope for a brighter life brought more than a decade ago by lay volunteers, mostly educators, to the Alangan-Mangyan at the foot of Mount Halcon, however, is now seriously counting on divine intervention for the Mangyan school to survive, said Sally Melendrez-Valenton.

Melendrez Valenton, 47, who is more popularly known here as Sally, is in charge of the Mangyan school called the San Lorenzo Ruiz Formation Center Annex or SLRFC Annex. In the early 1990s, she founded the Vocation Club that responded to the request of Oriental Mindoro Bishop Warlito Cajandig for an outreach program for the natives in Sitio Banilad in Barangay Dulangan III.

There is an SLRFC Main in Calapan City, which was opened first and offers pre-school and primary education mostly to Tagalogs.

In 1992, Barangay Dulangan III chair Pinoy Oscado, a Mangyan, asked Sally to sustain their assistance particularly through an education program for the Mangyan.

Committed to serve, Sally and company extended the SLRFC to the Mangyan. They opened a multi-grade non-formal education (NFE) program consisting of basic subjects (reading, writing, arithmetic, and religion) for Mangyan children 6-16 years old.

The school is located within a community of Mangyan in Banilad, overlooking Calapan and neighboring towns.

No turning back

When natural calamities like typhoons and earthquakes hit the Mangyan area, the volunteers realized that there was no turning back.

The first school, which was made of *kakawate (a mangrove tree specie)*, coco lumber, nipa and sand as flooring, collapsed because of termites.

Help came in trickles in cash and in kind until they were able to construct three rooms for classes, a toilet, a home economics room called *balay lakoy* by the Mangyan that also serves as a guidance counseling office and clinic, an 80-square-meter office/library and a native chapel that could accommodate around 50 people.

Health education is an important concern integrated in the program.

"It is indeed easy to construct a building. But to sustain it is the bigger challenge," said Sally, who regrets that her time is being consumed by raising funds rather than supervising the quality of the program.

In 1995, the NFE developed into formal education and now provides pre-schooling until Grade 6.

High school students who used to go to Calapan schools now go to Baco to save on transportation money.

ALANGAN-Mangyan pupils learn the basics in a school established for them in Baco, Oriental Mindoro. The school is in need of assistance. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Since February this year, the NFE program in Banilad is being handled by a teacher hired by the provincial government under its Programang Pang-Edukasyon sa Kalibliban, which ended last August. The need for assistance is thus urgent.

Providence

Before putting up the educational program in the Mangyan area, scholars (including some Tagalogs) stayed for nine years in the SLRFC Main.

Two years ago, the SLRFC Annex was able to raise some P56,000 through a cultural presentation that depicted Alangan-Mangyan life and their struggles to be liberated from illiteracy.

The De La Salle University assisted in selling tickets for the activity through the efforts of Emmy Mandia, Ph.D., a biology professor, who Sally met by coincidence in Quiapo Church.

"She was eating while I was going to buy flowers," she recalled. They exchanged stories and Sally learned that Mandia had been conducting studies on Mount Halcon.

On another occasion, a Claretian priest and vocation director helped Sally go to Saitama, Japan to solicit.

After three months, she was able to raise P240,000 from Filipino groups there.

At present, 15 out of 68 scholars have foster parents in Japan, each of them getting P500 assistance per month.

The program has benefited some 220 young and old Mangyans since it started some 13 years ago.

Determined

Jocelyn Kiko, 17, once lived in the SLRFC Main and is now in second year high school at the Baco National High School as an SLRFC Annex scholar.

Afraid of losing her scholarship if she married, she refused an early marriage proposal from her Tagalog boyfriend who later poisoned himself. Fortunately, he survived. "I've learned to value education," said the girl, as she hoped for a brighter future.

The father of Jocelyn observed that with the SLRFC program, the Mangyan could no longer be exploited. "We were used to be paid P50 for a day of farm work. Now, this amount has doubled," he said.

Sonia Kalignayan Oscado stayed for ten years in the SLRFC Main as another scholar. Starting September, she has helped in adult education.

Oscado has imbibed industriousness under the SLRFC formation program.

Funding

Funding for the operations of the Mangyan school, however, continues to haunt Sally.

Her close friends have often told her to end her problems by closing the school. But strongly believing that education is indispensable in "liberating the Mangyan from extreme poverty," she has refused and carried on the burden until today.

The program is also open to volunteers, preferably teachers, agriculturists and health workers. The school has now four teachers.

Volunteer Mary Cacay noted that the 15-minute break from school for recess or lunch is useless because the Mangyan children only just pass away the time as they have nothing to eat.

"They no longer want to eat bananas. Sometimes, they eat grilled rats," Cacay said. Most of them eat available rootcrops.

Volunteers say poor nutrition is making it hard for Mangyan children to cope with their studies.

They also noted that a livelihood program is another expressed need of the Mangyan.

For those who want to extend help, Sally Melendrez-Valenton may be reached through telephone number 043-2867186 or 0920-6159000. She is based in Calapan City.

Blind kids see hope amid darkness

By Joyce Mejillano
San Jacinto, Masbate

THE KINDNESS of strangers and some groups has brought light to the nearly vanishing hope of four children who were born with sight impairment.

Help poured in after the story of Maricel, 11, Princess Sarah, 5, Leizel, 3, and Chris, six months old, of the Cantoria family, was published in the July 24 issue of the INQUIRER.

A kindhearted man from Los Baños, Laguna, who requested anonymity, sent P5,000 in cash and another generous person from Manila, a certain JP Mon also deposited P5,000 (in this writer's bank account) for the Cantorias.

"I was so thankful that there are still people out there who are concerned about the welfare of their unfortunate fellowmen," Arles Cantoria, father of the kids, said in Filipino.

The four siblings were born with sight impairment and a doctor who examined them said they have undeveloped eyes.

A teary-eyed mother, Marilyn, said the amount they have received would help them start a small piggery in their backyard to sustain the needs of the kids in their schooling.

Arles said this will make sure the money will not last only for a few days.

"We want the amount to sustain the needs of my kids even in the future and since it's quite feasible in our place for a small piggery business to thrive, my wife and I decided to make use of the money in that venture," he said.

Arles could hardly work far from his family since the kids need to be tended most of the time.

He, or his 15-year-old eldest son, needs to bring and fetch Maricel and Sarah from school, which takes them almost an hour of walking.

Sarah is now attending kindergarten as irregular student in order to prepare her to cope with school work.

The family was also overwhèlmed with joy when the team of Magandang Gabi Bayan of ABS-CBN featured their story on television, shortly after it was published in the INQUIRER Southern Luzon Page.

Arles said MGB was able to have his blind kids checked and treated by an eye specialist in Manila.

He told the INQUIRER that the kids, especially Princess Sarah, have been able to see images, though not very clear, a development that excites them most.

The MGB team also provided the kids, except for Maricel, with thick glasses to enhance their vision.

Maricel's defect could no longer be treated and her sight could not be improved anymore with the use of glasses, attending doctors said.

TEACHER Nena Delavin with Maricel and Princess Sarah. JOYCE MEJILLANO

Quezon's first local born hero remembered

THE 12-FOOT bronze "Hermano Pule" monument located at the Arias junction in Barangay Isabang, Tayabas, Quezon. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Tayabas, Quezon

TO COMMEMORATE the death and heroism of the first local-born national hero, at least 3,000 Quezonians on Tuesday walked for a cause and government officials placed flowers in a newly unveiled monument in honor of Apolinario de la Cruz, more popularly known as "Hermano Pule."

A religious group based in Mt. Banahaw also sang patriotic songs.

Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga and Rep. Rafael Nantes led the unveiling of the 12-foot "Hermano Pule" bronze monument located at the Arias junction in Barangay Isabang.

Before the program, some 3,000 participants joined the three-kilometer walk-for-a-cause that started at the Calumpang junction and ended at the monument site.

"In this crucial time of the country's history, we should all look back and reflect on the heroism, conviction and belief of Hermano Pule. He unselfishly offered his life for the interest of his people," Nantes said.

Hermano Pule, known as a pioneer crusader of religious freedom in the province, was born on July 22, 1815 in barrio Pandak in Lukban town.

He grew up in the peaceful environment of the mountain town, according to records of the municipal planning and development coordinator in Lukban.

He was a shy and religious boy whose dream was to become a priest.

"His mind was then already distributed by the unchristian behavior of some bad friars, who were arrogant, cruel and venal," the records said. But no monastic convent would admit him as a lay brother because he was an *indio*.

In 1840, Pule returned to Lukban and began his religious reform movement by founding the Confradia de San Jose (Confraternity of St. Joseph), a religious society of Filipinos.

This religious society wanted to promote social interaction and unity among members. A member was free to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience.

But the Spanish friars looked at the fraternity not as a simple religious group but a threat, thus, branding him as "a heretic, an anti-Christian, and a filibuster."

This forced the organization to go underground.

Despite government persecution, Pule's followers increased to 5,000 mostly in the City of Manila and the provinces of Tayabas (now Quezon), Laguna and Batangas.

They made the mystical mountain of Banahaw as their base of operation.

Hunted by Spanish authorities, Pule and his followers who were armed with bolos, bamboo spears, bows and arrows, amulets and some old firearms, made their last stand on Nov. 1, 1841 in the vicinity of Sariaya and Tayabas until he was captured.

On Nov. 4, they were executed near the town hall of Tayabas.

Pule's head was hung on a pole opposite his house in Lukban, near the road going to Majayjay. A similar program that commemorates Pule's heroism was also held in Lukban.

The unsung hero from Quezon has been declared one of the country's national heroes.

Nov. 4 has also been declared a non-working holiday for the entire province.

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Storm 'Ursula' brings P33M in damages to 2 Negros Oriental towns

DUMAGUETE CITY—Tropical depression 'Ursula' that hit Negros Island has damaged P33 million worth of crops and livestock in at least two areas in Negros Oriental, bringing losses to some 3,400 farmers.

A report prepared by the Provincial Agriculturist Office (PAO) said that Bayawan City, some 102 km south of here, was the worst affected by the heavy rains spawned by Ursula on Oct. 23-25.

The flash floods that hit Bayawan City led to the drowning of four persons.

At least 6,937 hectares of farms planted with rice, vegetables, sugarcane and cotton also suffered severe damages as a result of the tropical depression, according to the PAO report.

The report also counted 290 carabaos, cows, goats, swine and chicken died during the typhoon. Some P832,000 in losses were listed by the PAO report in the livestock industry.

Luis Sumalpong, Bayawan City agriculturist, reported that at least 3,337 suffered losses as a result of floodings.

In Tanjay City, some 34 km north of here, about 50 hectares of rice fields tilled by 59 farmers were also damaged by the typhoon. The estimated amount of the damage was P343,000.

Gregorio Paltingca, provincial agriculture officer, said the amount of the damages could actually be more because the figures on losses that came in were based only on the reports from Bayawan and Tanjay.

Paltingca, however, said the food production of the province remained stable since only about one-twelfth of the rice lands in Negros Oriental suffered damages because of the typhoon. The province has at least 12,000 hectares of land devoted to rice planting, he said.

He added that corn production was not affected because the harvest season had already taken place before Ursula hit the province. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

BONTOC PROTEST

Gov hit for anti-women remark

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—About 500 women held a protest rally last week in front of the Mt. Province capitol in Bontoc town and called for the resignation of Gov. Sario Malinias.

The women assailed Malinias for his "careless remark" about Bontoc women being "easy lay."

Lynn Madalang, executive director of Ebgan, a group fighting violence against women, and one of the rally's leaders, said the provincial board was also preparing a resolution condemning Malinias for supposedly saying, "*Nan bababain si Ibontoc ya aped da mai-i__t* (Bontoc women just allow themselves to get f__ked)."

Madalang said Malinias made the remark in his meeting with women employees of the provincial engineering office last week.

The governor reportedly called the meeting with the employees after a letter was published in a local weekly castigating him for locking himself in a room with a female employee while he was still mayor of Bauko.

Madalang, in a telephone interview, said Malinias appeared before the protesting women after they demanded his resignation.

Malinias told them that his statements were mistakenly interpreted and these were supposed to be an advice for some "indecent women."

But instead of pacifying the crowd, the Bontoc women instead got furious and started pointing fingers at Malinias.

The women also passed around and signed a petition last week calling for his resignation.

The INQUIRER tried to call Malinias' office on Wednesday but no one was answering the phone. He reportedly left Bontoc on Wednesday and failed to preside over the peace talks among provincial leaders, military officials and representatives of the New People's Army.

WHO cites Davao anti-smoking campaign

DAVAO CITY—The city's anti-smoking campaign paid off as it earned recognition from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was named recipient of the WHO award for Exemplary Leadership in Tobacco Use Regulation along with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, whose anti-smoking campaign was modeled after Davao City.

The award, which was received by Anti-Smoking Task Force secretariat head Dr. Domilyn Villarreiz, was given by the National Tobacco Management team in the presence of the Western Pacific Regional Countries.

Duterte and Binay were the only recipients of the award for their efforts to protect the health of their constituents by regulating smoking in public places.

Duterte shared the WHO recognition with the Anti-Smoking Task Force, which has continued to implement the anti-smoking ordinance since it took effect November last year.

The mayor also gave credit to the city council, law enforcement agencies and the public for their support of the anti-smoking campaign, which is aimed at making the city a healthy place to live in.
PDI Mindanao Bureau

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OUR NATION IS IN CRISIS.

1) **The economy is dead, or dying.**
The peso has sunk. Investments and jobs have disappeared. Millions have no homes, no food, no medical care for the sick, no schools for the young. Official extravagance adds to the suffering of the poor, while organized corruption robs them of their most basic needs. There is deepening hopelessness and helplessness everywhere. The young want to emigrate, anywhere.

2) **Mrs. Arroyo has failed to govern. She has divided, and continues to divide the nation.**
She has sacrificed sovereignty and self-respect in her drive for power. But she has failed to win the people. With no chance of getting elected, she has announced her candidacy for 2004, and embarked on a ruthless campaign to destroy every potential rival and every institution that stands in the path of her ambition. She will cheat to win, whatever the cost or consequence. The stage is being set for civil disorder.

3) **The House of Representatives damaged itself when its leaders hastily adjourned their session on Oct. 28, 2003, days before the agreed adjournment date, in an ignominious and venal attempt to thwart the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.**

4) **Davide and his associates totally destroyed whatever remained of the Supreme Court's reputation, after their crimes against the Constitution in 2001, when they ordered the House to stop the impeachment process, in gross violation of the Constitution.**

Kabuhayan wasak

5) **Betraying their sacred trust, the conscript media not only parrot shamelessly but even propose absurd official statements on the crisis, while at the same time suppressing, downplaying, or distorting altogether the views of the Opposition.**

6) **The people have lost all faith and trust in the corrupt regime, and in the equally corrupt electoral system. They demand total change.**

THE TIME IS NOW.

WE DEMAND A NEW CONSTITUTION AND A NEW GOVERNMENT THAT WILL BE TRUE TO OUR PEOPLE.

WE CALL ON ALL PATRIOTIC FILIPINOS TO HEED THE CALL OF THE HOUR, RISE ABOVE PARTISANSHIP, AND UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY EFFORT TO ATTAIN THIS OBJECTIVE FOR THE LASTING PROSPERITY OF OUR PEOPLE.

THE OCTOBER 28 MOVEMENT

ADVT.

Cory leads huge pro-Davide rally in Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Suzzane B. Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Former President Corazon Aquino yesterday expressed support for the tripartite covenant presented by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the leaders of the Supreme Court and Congress to resolve the impeachment crisis.

Speaking at a prayer-rally in support of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. initiated by the Citizens for Judicial Independence (CJI), Ms Aquino said she was happy to learn that Ms Macapagal had come up with the covenant.

"I call upon all our lawmakers to study this proposal, set aside personal egos, and partisan and narrow political interests, and work as one in putting a closure to this crisis," she said.

Ms Aquino arrived in Cebu at noon with Luli Arroyo, the President's daughter, and her friend, former Rep. Nancy Cuenco.

They joined about 50,000 people massed at the Fuente Osmeña Rotunda.

Senior Supt. Cecil Ezra Sandalo, city police director, and Supt. Anthony Obenza of the Fuente police station estimated the crowd at 100,000. The last time Cebu witnessed such a huge gathering was at the height of the protests against then President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Luli Arroyo said she was there to represent her mother.

The President had wanted to attend the rally, but the CJI politely said it had been agreed that no politician would speak or their presence acknowledged at the rally.

FORMER President Cory Aquino leads thousands of Cebuanos in rally to show support for Chief Justice Hilario Davide. The crowd estimate at Fuente Osmeña in Cebu City ranges from 30,000 to 100,000. RUDOLPH ALCAZAREN

In her speech, Ms Aquino said she believed in the integrity of Davide, whom she appointed four times during her administration: as member of the Constitutional Commission; chair of the Commission on Election; chair of the committee that investigated the coup attempts; and as justice of the Supreme Court.

"I invite everyone to pray for all our legislators, both opposed and in favor of the impeachment complaint," she said. "Let us also pray for the Chief Justice and the entire judiciary as well as for the President. And let us pray for one another so that all of us Filipinos will find it in our hearts to work together in pursuit of justice, peace, stability, harmony and prosperity."

SC defends purchase of cars, curtains, chairs

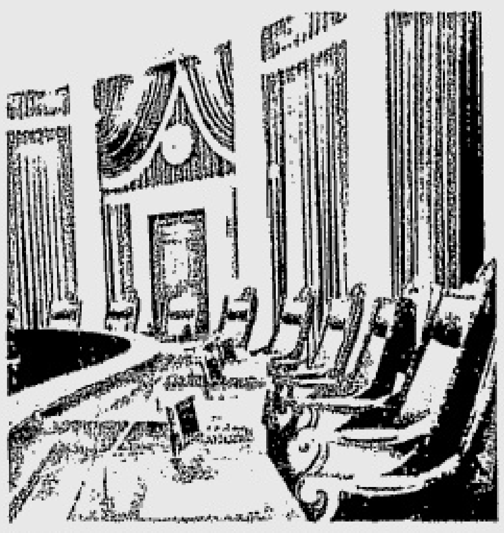
By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court yesterday said it judiciously spent money from the Judiciary Development Fund in refurbishing its session hall, and acquiring its vehicles and the cottages in Baguio.

"If the Executive has Malacañang Palace and the Legislative Branch has the Batasan Pambansa and the Senate Session Halls, the Supreme Court, as the third and co-equal branch of government, also has its session hall, the seat and representation of the administration of justice," the Court said in a flier issued by the SC Public Information Office titled "The Truth About the JDF."

The tribunal said the project—which included the new curtains, draperies, and chairs—was covered by a "lump sum contract, following the required bidding procedure."

The court justified the spending of P5 million on the curtains of the new SC session hall, saying that these were not "ordinary" curtains.



CRITICS of Chief Justice Hilario Davide say these chairs cost P120,000 each. But Davide says these cost only P27,000 each. ERIK ARAZAS

"The 670 linear yards of fabric used for the draperies are 'lush cotton velvet,' custom woven specifically for drapery use, (and) not locally available. It was specified and chosen by the consultant as a technical design solution to problems in the renovated areas such as sunlight glare, sound reverberation, sound proofing and related acoustic problems specific to assembly areas (for) public hearings," it said.

"Moreover, overall aesthetics and durability were taken into account. The draperies are a standard feature of neo-classical architecture in assembly areas in other countries. The cost of the draperies include labor and accessories such as lining, fringes, tiebacks, curtain rods and medallions. Again, these expenses form part of the contract of the entire renovation project," the Court added.

The Court reiterated Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s denial of the charge that the SC bought chairs costing P120,000 each for its en banc session hall. Davide had said the chairs cost P27,000 each and were bought in Angeles City.

The Court also said that while the construction of the two cottages in Baguio cost P34 million, this amount included the design consultancy fee, the construction of the cottages and of a duplex staff house (equivalent to two cottages), expenses for bored pilings, and construction of the retaining wall, access roads, site development, soil investigation and topographical surveys.

"These were all necessary for geotechnical requirements, considering that the Supreme Court compound is an earthquake-prone area," the Court said.

The SC said the two cottages replaced the ones destroyed in the 1990 earthquake. The court traditionally holds summer sessions in Baguio to discuss cases of national importance.

Abaya says military 'apprised' of situation

From page A1

Gen. Narciso Abaya made this disclosure to INQUIRER editors and staff after dinner Tuesday night at the paper's Makati office. But he said that the individuals did not go as far as to suggest that the military intervene in case of a political crisis, and that he himself made no such commitment to them.

"They were just saying that this situation might develop into a constitutional crisis and that the AFP might be put in the limelight again and be called upon to do its role ... to protect the people and the state," he said, adding:

"I was just apprised that this could develop into this situation."

He declined to name the individuals or their groups, but said he met with them recently on at least three separate occasions.

Abaya said that throughout the meetings, he merely listened and "never made any commitment."

"There was no insinuation that we intervene ... There was no offer. What they wanted to say was that they look up to the AFP as a stabilizing force," he said.

"They're just painting a doomsday scenario. We don't necessarily bite what they say," added Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, who was among the officers present at the dinner.

Reacting to persistent warnings of military adventurism in the face of the impeachment crisis, Abaya said: "If there will be such a military intervention, it will not be coming from the [AFP]."

He also downplayed the perceived crucial role that the top brass plays in a crisis, such as when the military assumed a key role in the ouster of Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada in 1986 and 2001.

"In the first place, I still have the Commander in Chief," he said. "It's not really the AFP [that makes that decision]. I execute the decisions of the Commander in Chief."

Red alert

Abaya also justified the military's declaration of a nationwide red alert, saying it was aimed at preventing pro- and anti-impeachment demonstrators from creating mayhem.

"We were concerned that these rallies can get out of hand," he said, explaining the military's decision to upgrade its alert status from white to red. "Besides, people feel more secure when the AFP is on alert than when it is not."

Added Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations: "Security is almost always preemptive."

Speaking in general terms, Abaya pointed out that the red alert would dissuade any group plotting a destabilization attempt.

"There will be a miscalculation on their part ... that we are ready to quell [their action]," he said.

The military declared a red alert Tuesday morning.

Ask the cops

In response to reporters' badgering as to why President Macapagal-Arroyo decided to raise the red alert, her deputy spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said: Ask your friendly neighborhood policeman.

"Just ask the police if it is easy to take advantage of this tense situation because they are the experts," Saludo said yesterday in Malacañang.

"It is not for the Palace to single out the people behind these threats, and it might not be good security practice to identify them. The moment we name 10 of them, the 11th would think we don't suspect him. It's better that we don't name them even though we're watching all of them," he added.

Saludo, who occasionally blows his top during Malacañang briefings for reporters, said it was not the President's intention to spook the public by raising the red alert.

But he conceded that people tended to be alarmed by such an alert.

Saludo said the red alert was meant to ensure that there would be "no surprises or untoward moves" by supposed coup plotters.

He said the government was in full control "even though we are in a situation that is clearly not desirable and not normal."

Asked if the President was admitting that her administration was weak when she said "our republic is not that strong," Saludo said: "No, the administration is strong, but not that strong. The opposite of strong is not strong."

PMA '89

Members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1989, who were recently rumored as planning destabilization moves, yesterday denied that they intended to take advantage of Davide's impeachment to launch a military coup.

Speaking at a media forum in San Juan, Supt. Dionisio Borromeo, class president, and Chief Insp. Bart Bustamante also called on the public to stop involving them in any destabilization move.

"This is not true, and we are appealing to people not to drag our class into this. We are middle-level officers who are loyal to the Constitution," Borromeo said.

He said they had conducted a roll call of the more than 100 members of the Makatao class in the active service, and were able to account for all except those living abroad.

"We also all decided not to indulge in these illegal activities," he said.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, who attended the forum, came to the defense of Class '89: "It is unfair to the class. I've also heard rumors that the class is 'for sale.' That is even worse. The military will not intervene and poke its nose in something political."

Garcia also said the military was ready to meet any destabilization move head-on. "Possibilities will remain possibilities. But if there is a group, it will be a small one, and the AFP will move quickly to quash any move," he said.

He likewise clarified that the AFP's red-alert status was "a precautionary measure just in case the peace and order situation breaks down" as a result of the crisis arising from Davide's impeachment.

He said the red alert was "not meant to address any destabilization move."

At the same forum, "running priest" Robert Reyes of the Stop Impeachment Movement said Davide's impeachment had "confused the people."

"This is where military adventurism can come in," he said.

Businessman Raul Concepcion said it was "prudent" for the military to go on red alert.

"This is meant as a precautionary measure. And it's good they are there. We understand that," he said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa*

GMA assures public on May 2004 polls

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured the public that the May 2004 elections would push through as scheduled even if the impasse between the House and the Supreme Court over the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. would take a turn for the worse.

"The elections will go on because other government institutions continue to perform normally," the President said in a statement as she defended anew her decision to maintain the military's red alert status.

"Our republic is not that strong, and that is why we have these transient spikes of destabilization running alongside political controversies," she said.

She also said that despite fears of another coup attempt, her administration had the situation under control.

"A red alert is a proactive move, and the people must not be alarmed," she said. "It should call for calm and not hysterics as the Armed Forces and the police are one in safeguarding public order."

The President appeared unruffled by the growing number of people marching in the streets to express their opinion on Davide's impeachment.

"We shall calmly but firmly hold the middle ground of law and order and peaceable protest," she declared. "We will protect the legitimate exercise of civil rights, but we will intercept criminal saboteurs or agents provocateur. We will combine maximum tolerance with maximum vigilance with the full support of our communities."

POLICE SWAT members are on high alert in front of the Supreme Court building along Taft Avenue in Manila.

Tempers rise ...

From page A1

familiar lines. Supporters of Estrada, an ally of Cojuangco, are backing Davide's ouster. On Davide's side are former President Corazon Aquino, the Catholic Church and other non-government organizations that toppled the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Estrada in Edsa I and II.

"You are mediocre! Such idiocy!" Herman Tiu Laurel, a convenor of the pro-impeachment Kilusan para sa Makatarungang Lipunan at Gobyerno (KMLG), shouted at Bong Montes and Chuck Crisanto, both members of the Stop Impeachment Movement (SIM).

Montes and Crisanto were trying to talk to Laurel about how their groups could position themselves along T. M. Kalaw Street so they could hold simultaneous rallies while avoiding a clash.

"We wanted to settle the matter peacefully. There should be enough space for the two groups to air their sentiments," Crisanto later told the INQUIRER.

Laurel, however, was in no mood to negotiate over democratic space. "You are always privileged. The Americans are behind you," Laurel shouted at the two SIM members.

Cooler heads separated Laurel from the two SIM members. But then came Ronald Lumbao, a firebrand at pro-Estrada rallies.

"(Davide) is not above the law. What makes him think he is immune from prosecution?" Lumbao said. "The only thing the people want is for (Davide) to explain why it is more important to build mansions in Baguio than the welfare of the people."

Lumbao made no mention of the mansion that Estrada allegedly built for his mistresses. Even so, he accused impeachment opponents of being hypocrites, saying they did not raise objections when Estrada was being impeached for plunder.

Several KMLG demonstrators tried to march to the Supreme Court, but police used shields to block their way to Padre Faura Street.

Police also tried to use a fire hose to disperse them. But the protesters grabbed the hose when it disconnected accidentally from a fire truck and tied it around a tree.

At about 11:30 a.m., police also blocked a smaller group of demonstrators near the courthouse led by Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran. They used their shields to push back the demonstrators and chased them away, hurting about a dozen, including Beltran and Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, said the NCRPO would strictly implement the "no permit, no rally" policy.

"I am appealing to our countrymen (to) look for ways to contribute to the stability of the country instead of adding to the divisiveness of our nation," Velasco said in a statement.

The different groups, he said, are only allowed to hold rallies in so-called "freedom parks."

Outside these parks, protesters should secure permit from local government units, Velasco said.

He also said that 17,000-strong NCRPO force was on heightened alert following President Macapagal-Arroyo's disclosure of a new destabilization threat against her administration.

"The Metro Manila force is carrying out the heightened alert in anticipation of those groups that may take advantage of the situation and destabilize the government. We are dedicated to protect the country's democracy against any moves to advance their own interest," the NCRPO chief said. *With reports by Tina Santos, AP and AFP*

A SUPPORTER and a critic of the Chief Justice engage in a heated debate during street rallies near the Supreme Court building in Manila. AFP

FOUR DIGIT
7 9 6 3
(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 5 7 14 20 21

SUERTRES
5 6 1

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

'Tondo an outbreak waiting to happen'

Dayrit says Manila district has all the elements of a dangerous situation

By Blanche S. Rivera and Tarra Quismundo

TONDO'S old leaky pipes, low water pressure, booster pumps and illegal water connections provided a suitable setting for the deadly outbreak of acute gastroenteritis, according to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

"It was an outbreak waiting to happen," Dayrit said yesterday, noting that each of the four factors played a significant role in the contamination of the crowded Manila district's water supply.

Nonetheless, the health secretary yesterday declared the outbreak in 11 affected barangays as contained.

In its latest count, the Department of Health (DOH) recorded a total of 559 cases of acute gastroenteritis with five deaths.

The Manila City Health Department (MCDH) concurred after correcting the earlier figure of 576, which included cases that were not due to water contamination.

Meanwhile, Maynilad Water Services Inc. president Rafael Alunan III said the water firm had disconnected 58 illegal connections and repaired 76 of the 285 reported leaks since last week.

To speed up the repairs, Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. has waived the permit requirement for Maynilad to conduct diggings in the city.

Blame was earlier tossed at the Maynilad, which had been accused of not maintaining the water pipes and water quality in Tondo.

But in a press briefing yesterday, Dayrit said, "If you want something to blame, it's the whole environment of Tondo."

"And who makes the environment? It's the people," he said.

Initial examination showed that many victims of the outbreak were positive for cholera vibrio, the choler-causing organism which is water-borne.

Others were positive for aeromonas, salmonella typhi, para-typhi, which causes typhoid fever, and E.coli, all of which indicate sewage contamination.

Dayrit said efforts had been shifted to finding out why and how the outbreak occurred and spread.

For its part, the city government focused on preventing another outbreak.

Yesterday, Atienza ordered the monitoring of all water refilling stations in Manila after a seller in Tondo was found selling contaminated water.

"I have ordered the shutdown of that water-refilling station," Atienza said, referring to H2O Purified Water Refilling Station on Velasquez corner Lallana Street.

The water refilling station serviced customers in the area, which had a high concentration of acute gastroenteritis cases since Oct. 23.

Atienza, however, pointed out that 18 other water-refilling stations in the affected area had tested negative for contaminants.

To help provide safe drinking water, Atienza also ordered the setting up of two water-refilling stations to service Tondo residents for free.

These will be set up at the corner of Capulong and Velasquez Streets and on Varona Street.

Atienza revealed that City Hall would be putting up permanent public water-refilling stations in the area.

The mayor also told barangay and health officials to intensify their information campaign regarding the symptoms, treatment and prevention of acute gastroenteritis.

Parañaque traffic police chief arrested for alleged extortion

By Leila B. Salaverria

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested on Tuesday the chief of the Parañaque Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) for alleged extortion.

Supt. Rodolfo Salvador, 52, was nabbed for allegedly extorting P32,000 from Divina Custodio, a vendor.

According to NBI agent Rafael Gonzaga, Custodio's stall was demolished by the Metro Manila Development Authority when it cleared the area fronting the Baclaran Church of vendors.

It was then that Salvador allegedly offered Custodio the use of the space beside the office of Parañaque's TEU in exchange for a monthly fee. She agreed.

However, with customers becoming sparse, Custodio's sales fell and was unable to pay her monthly dues to Salvador. As a result, the traffic chief padlocked her store.

Later, Salvador allegedly called Custodio and told her that she could reopen her stall in exchange for a donation of a computer to the traffic office.

When the vendor asked what model of computer, Salvador reportedly told her to just give him P32,000 and he would be the one to buy the unit.

It was at this point that Custodio sought the help of the NBI, which then entrapped Salvador.

According to NBI Assistant Regional Director Vicente de Guzman, Salvador flatly denied asking money from Custodio and even claimed that it was Custodio who offered him money.

Insp. Alfredo Ariz, Parañaque TEU operations chief, said Custodio just arrived at about 2:30 on Tuesday at their office and offered Salvador food, which the traffic chief declined.

Custodio then reportedly left an envelope on Salvador's table before hurriedly leaving. The NBI men then came in.

Judge slaps clerk over salary issue

By Tarra Quismundo

A MANILA judge known for openly supporting embattled Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. reportedly slapped and pulled the hair of a court employee over the issue of compensation.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 49 interpreter Catherine Loja, 41, said in a phone interview that Judge Concepcion Vergara came to see her at their office at the 5th floor of the Manila City Hall at about 2 p.m. yesterday.

Vergara, Loja said, was upset over a rumor that Manila judges were not supportive of the court employee's petition for a salary increase.

Loja, president of the Court Interpreters' Association of the Philippines, said she told Vergara that it could just be a misunderstanding but the judge instead allegedly began shouting.

The judge then allegedly told court employees to look for the person who made the remark about the judges.

To this, Loja replied: "Why don't you look for her yourself?"

Vergara then reportedly slapped Loja on her left cheek then pulled her hair, as she told her that she was going to report her to the executive judge.

Loja said she was contemplating filing charges against the judge.

Earlier, Vergara authored the manifesto of support of Manila RTC judges to Davide when deposed President Joseph Estrada filed the first impeachment case against the Chief Justice.

Vergara was not available for comment.

HANDLE WITH CARE
Policemen from the different districts in Metro Manila learn how to restrain a suspect during a training session held in Camp Crame yesterday.
JOAN BONDOC

Clearing ops stall C-5 traffic

A SIDEWALK clearing operation and the removal of illegal structures on C-5 Road yesterday caused a massive traffic jam in Pasig City.

The clearing operation was carried out by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Bobby Esquivel, MMDA sidewalk clearing operations chief, said they expected the traffic jam, but assured that traffic flow would be lighter in the coming days.

Esquivel said they were able to demolish sari-sari stores, vulcanizing shops and even videoke bars erected on the sidewalk.

He said the owners of the establishments tried to stop the MMDA personnel but failed.

Margaux Ortiz

But not all women are honest

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IN TUESDAY'S column, I said that women are basically more honest than men because they have simple needs.

But I also said that when a woman becomes dishonest, she goes all the way. She's worse than the most depraved of men!

I saw this in a woman provincial police director in Central Luzon a couple of years ago.

* * *

The policewoman, who had the rank of superintendent, was designated to that position because she was a member of a powerful religious sect.

The woman lost no time in taking advantage of her exalted position. She quarreled with the provincial governor. She stole real estate from ignorant people. She accepted, nay demanded, bribes from jueteng lords.

And then when she learned that the governor was receiving P1 million every month from a big jueteng lord, she demanded that she receive the same amount. She was not contented with her monthly take of P500,000.

* * *

"Ma'am, that's the same rate that the provincial director before you was receiving. The governor receives P1 million because he's the head of the province," the jueteng lord told her.

"Bong, you must remember," she told the jueteng lord, "I head the police force here while the governor doesn't have any policeman under him."

When the jueteng lord would not grant her demand, the woman police director came out with an exposé in Congress.

* * *

She denounced the governor and her superior, the Central Luzon police director at the time, and some journalists, including this writer, who criticized her abusive behavior, as allegedly being on the take from jueteng lords.

She didn't even spare retired Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, who practically twisted the arm of the Central Luzon police director to appoint her (that's gratitude for you!). Poor Montano didn't know what hit him!

She basked in the glory of the ensuing publicity. Her superiors in Camp Crame became scared of her. She even insulted the Philippine National Police (PNP) chief at the time, calling him "bobo cop." Bobo stands for dunce.

* * *

Instead of grounding her, her superiors gave her another post because they were scared of the publicity.

And so she was sent to an island province in Luzon, which she ran like she did the Central Luzon province.

She went around the province's peaceful capital with bodyguards armed to the teeth. It was the first time people in that city saw Uzi machine pistols. The high-powered guns were carried by men in civilian clothes.

* * *

Once, this woman police officer got angry with a carpenter for not being fast enough in building her rest house in the city. She pistolwhipped the poor guy.

She tried to set up illegal gambling operations in the city. But the mayor got in her way. That started her quarrel with the mayor. Failing to have her way in the city, she allied herself with some fishers who used cyanide in catching fish.

But, as karma would have it, she fell into a trap. She sided with a political candidate by issuing arms to his goons during election time. That was illegal and she was charged for it. The case is still pending in court.

* * *

When presidential aspirant Raul Roco said that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza copied his style of wearing floral shirts, it betrayed his inner character.

Roco said he started wearing floral shirts in 1996 as a fashion statement.

But doesn't he know that Atienza is ahead of him by 12 years?

* * *

Lito Atienza has been wearing floral shirts since 1984.

I should know. I used to rib Atienza, whom I've known since he was Mayor Ramon Bagatsing's public relations officer, for his "bulaklakin" shirts. In 1986, when he was chair of the National Housing Authority (NHA), Atienza made his subordinates wear uniforms with floral designs.

Clothes with floral designs, according to the Manila mayor, are suited for tropical countries like the Philippines.

"They (floral clothes) give an aura of joyfulness and lightness. We are a joyful race," he once said.

METROBRIEFS

Too heavy load

A TRAILER truck full of empty beer bottles fell on its left side, injuring its driver and three helpers in Balintawak, Quezon City yesterday afternoon. The accident caused heavy traffic along A. Bonifacio Avenue. Police said the driver, Leo Malda, had earlier tried to avoid an old woman who suddenly crossed the street, but the truck fell on the driver's side because of the heavy load. Malda and his three helpers were taken to a hospital. The old woman was unhurt, police said. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Squatters' plea

HUNDREDS of informal settlers evicted from a squatters' area in Payatas, Quezon City have appealed to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to help them find a new place since they were not given a proper relocation site after their shanties had been demolished over the weekend. Some 2,000 residents of Spiritual Compound on Makisig and Lanzones Streets, Payatas, also decried their eviction. *Tina Santos*

Inside job

THE POLICE yesterday said they have solved a P90,000 theft pulled on a lotto outlet on Monday in Marikina City. The teller, Rose Calumpa, who was found tied and gagged inside the outlet on No. 224, A. Bonifacio St, turned out to be the primary suspect in the heist, police said. Calumpa, 31, of Mangahan, Barangay Tanong, failed a lie detector test conducted in Camp Crame. Calumpa is now being held behind bars. *Luige del Puerto*

Change shift rites

THE METRO Manila Development Authority has implemented a mandatory "ceremonial formation" whenever the enforcers change shifts. MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the move was meant to instill discipline on the enforcers and ensure that they would always be at their posts when on duty. *Margaux Ortiz*

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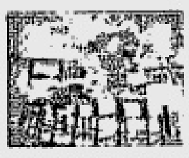

NuVo - A full course can set you back about P900 As some of the portions are generous, one can opt to go in a group, order several dishes and share. This way, one gets a chance to try different dishes, and discover why NuVo is creating its very own standard. It's advisable to call and make reservations

Monk's Dream - The days of pop jazz and Kenny G are over, thank goodness. But if you think that's the only jazz, hie over to Monk's Dream to see what you're truly missing. The bar is Pinoy Jazz's rightful home, found in Rockwell territory. There, it has the chance to grow and and spread the gospel of jazz. It's a welcome hangout for enthusiasts and players.

New Bombay Foods- Straightforward Indian food at its best. Forget artistic food preparations and unnecessary garnishes. Here the food jumps out at you and screams delicious! The extensive menu is divided into meat, fish, vegetables, lentils, naan, biryani, paneer and eggs cooked in different ways. There's also a variety of spice combinations.

Michael's Place Fat Michael's [illegible] shifts from being a wholesome family spot, a romantic hideaway, or your barkada's favorite dining and bonding place depending on the time of day you go and the company and crowd you end up dining with. This iconoclast gem of a place still outweighs its shortcomings with its abundance of character and value for money.

Cafe Juanita Affectionately named after the family matriarch, it feels like a visit to grandma's house. A homey interior creates a warm fuzzy feeling of being welcomed. A lovely oil painting of Juanita herself is in one corner of the dining space. Menu is Asian, Mediterranean and Filipino. Definitely a place mom would be proud of.

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Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games - Bullets vs Sonics, Game 5, 1978 Finals; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports - After finishing the 1977-1978 season with only the third best record in the Eastern Conference, the Washington Bullets make it all the way to the NBA Finals. However, in this Game 5, it is the Seattle Sonics that end up with the victory, 98-94.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Barakos whip Pals for No. 10

Red Bull Barako whipped Talk N Text, 110-99, last night and emerged Group B top seed in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Scott Burrell shot 19 points to lead six Barakos in double figures, including rookie playmaker Topex Robinson who had 10 points on top of 11 assists and four steals, as Red Bull achieved a franchise-best 10th straight win.

The Barakos became the first team in seven years to win 10 straight in a conference while raising their record to 11-2. The Coca-Cola Tigers have the same record, but lost top spot to the Barakos, who have beaten them twice.

The last team to achieve the 10-game winning run was Alaska which won 13 straight games en route to the 1996 Governors Cup title and the league's fourth grand slam.

The Phone Pals finished the eliminations with seven wins and six setbacks.

Barangay Ginebra clobbered Alaska, 96-73, in the second game, setting up a playoff between the Aces and the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs tomorrow for the last quarterfinal berth in Group A.

The Gin Kings capped the elimination round with a 7-6 record and will meet the Coca-Cola Tigers in a best-of-three quarterfinal showdown. The Barakos will again tackle the Phone Pals in the other Group B quarterfinal encounter.

The Aces tied the Hotdogs at 4-9.

Meanwhile, NBN-4 officials are preparing to press charges against Summit Sports World Corporation, its marketing and finance arm.

NBN-4 general manager Joey Isabelo was in a meeting with Summit officials at presstime.

June Navarro

Scores:

RED BULL 110—Burrell 19, Tugade 16, Villanueva 14, Harp 12, Asaytono 11, Robinson 10, Se 6, Miller 6, Torion 5, Pennisi 4, Valenzuela 3, Baguio 2, Hizon 2.

TALK 'N TEXT 99—Cantrell 34, Alapag 17, Taulava 15, Fran 10, Pablo 9, Carey 7, Ravena 5, Belano 2, Locsin 0, Telan 0.

Quarters: 28-17, 54-40, 80-60, 110-99.

Asi Taulava (middle) of Talk 'N Text dwarfs Nelson Asaytono and Michael Robinson (5) of Red Bull Barako in their game last night.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PSC workers complain of salary delay

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THIS time, the problem is of its own making.

The Philippine Sports Commission, already shaken by the ongoing lifestyle check on its officials that has been elevated to the antigraft body, faced yesterday the problem of paying the bloated workforce of contractual employees on time.

Now close to 400 from about 100 in 1993, the contractual employees of the agency have complained of delay in payment of their salaries several times this year.

Representatives of the employees said their salary on Oct. 15 was released five days late. They said at least thrice in the past three months their paychecks were delayed by two to three days.

PSC sources said the agency had antitipated the problem of the bloated roster of contractual employees, whose services are renewed every six months despite limited demands for jobs.

"We have already predicted this problem to happen because we keep on adding up contractuals through the years," said the source who refused to be named.

The source added the number of contractuals grew because previous chairs and commissioners brought with them several personnel acting as assistants or secretaries who remained with the PSC even after their departures.

Why the PSC refuses to terminate them could not be explained.

IBC seeks Palace help on PBA games telecast

By June Navarro

THE INTERNATIONAL Broadcasting Corporation (IBC-13) might resume its telecast of the PBA games sooner than expected.

This developed after IBC-13 chair Lincoln Tan Jr. yesterday asked Malacañang through Press Secretary Milton Alingod to allow the government-sequestered station to fulfill the NBN-IBC consortium's commitment to the PBA fans and its advertisers.

"The PBA and its advertisers are innocent. They should not be dragged in this controversy nor be affected in any way so as to compromise their interests," Tan told the INQUIRER.

Every playdate that IBC-13 fails to telecast since Oct. 29 will cost the station P3 million as penalty according to the NBN-IBC consortium's contract with the PBA.

NBN-4, through its finance arm Summit Sports World Corp, reportedly owes IBC-13 at least P30 million in airtime dues.

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GL	678,000	101,700	48,670	33,562	26,710	19,190	15,689	13,326
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Kobe bucks boos, lifts LA

MILWAUKEE—Kobe Bryant was booed every time he touched the ball but still notched 31 points to help the Los Angeles Lakers rally to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 113-107 in the NBA Tuesday.

Bryant and former Buck Gary Payton were heckled by the crowd before the Lakers replied by coming back from a 10-point second-half deficit.

Shaquille O'Neal added 23 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers while Payton chipped in with 19 as Los Angeles improved to 4-0 to start the season. Karl Malone had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Bryant, charged with sexual assault in the off-season, said he expected heckling from every arena apart from his own. "It isn't any different than any other road trip," he told reporters.

Michael Redd tallied a career-high 36 points for the Bucks, who were outscored 24-10 in the final seven minutes. Tim Thomas had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

In Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal scored 25 points and grabbed 20 rebounds to guide the Indiana Pacers to a 71-60 win over the Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets shot only 29 percent and rookie Carmelo Anthony struggled, managing two points on 1-for-13 shooting.

In East Rutherford, Steve Francis had 17 points, 10 rebounds and six assists as the Houston Rockets beat the New Jersey Nets 86-75.

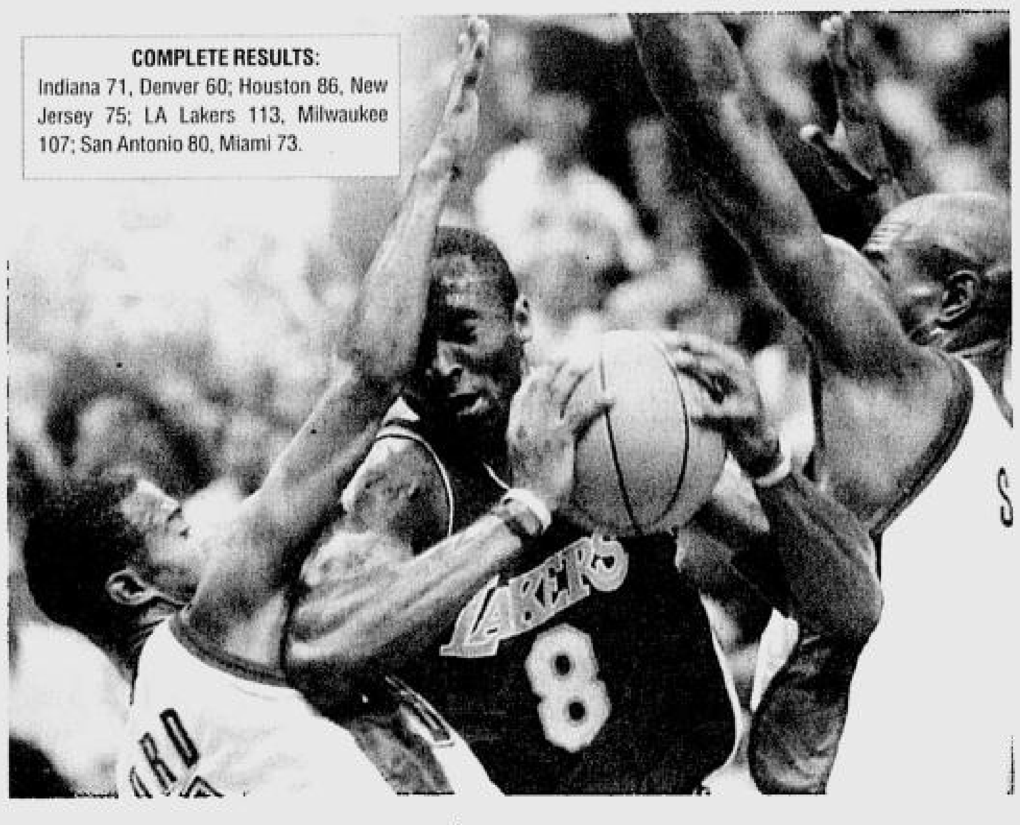
Cuttino Mobley scored 20 points to lead the Rockets while Yao Ming had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

In San Antonio, Malik Rose recorded 14 points and hauled down 11 rebounds to nudge the Spurs to an 80-73 triumph over the winless Miami Heat.

The Spurs, boosted by 15 points from Manu Ginobili, won despite the absence of the injured Tim Duncan and Tony Parker.

Reuters

COMPLETE RESULTS:
Indiana 71, Denver 60; Houston 86, New Jersey 75; LA Lakers 113, Milwaukee 107; San Antonio 80, Miami 73.


BRYANT is fouled as he drives between Milwaukee Bucks' T.J. Ford (left) and Joe Smith. AP

New NBA rivalry: LeBron James vs Carmelo Anthony

CLEVELAND—Russell vs. Chamberlain. Bird vs. Magic. Jordan vs. Everyone.

Rivalries have always given the NBA some extra bounce. On Wednesday night, another will be born.

This one pits a pair of the league's most talented rookies—good friends who have received rave reviews after playing just a few pro games.

And Cleveland's LeBron James and Denver's Carmelo Anthony can't wait for the opening tip.

"I'm looking forward to it," said James, the Cavaliers' 18-year-old guard.

"You know there's going to be a lot of hype," Anthony said.

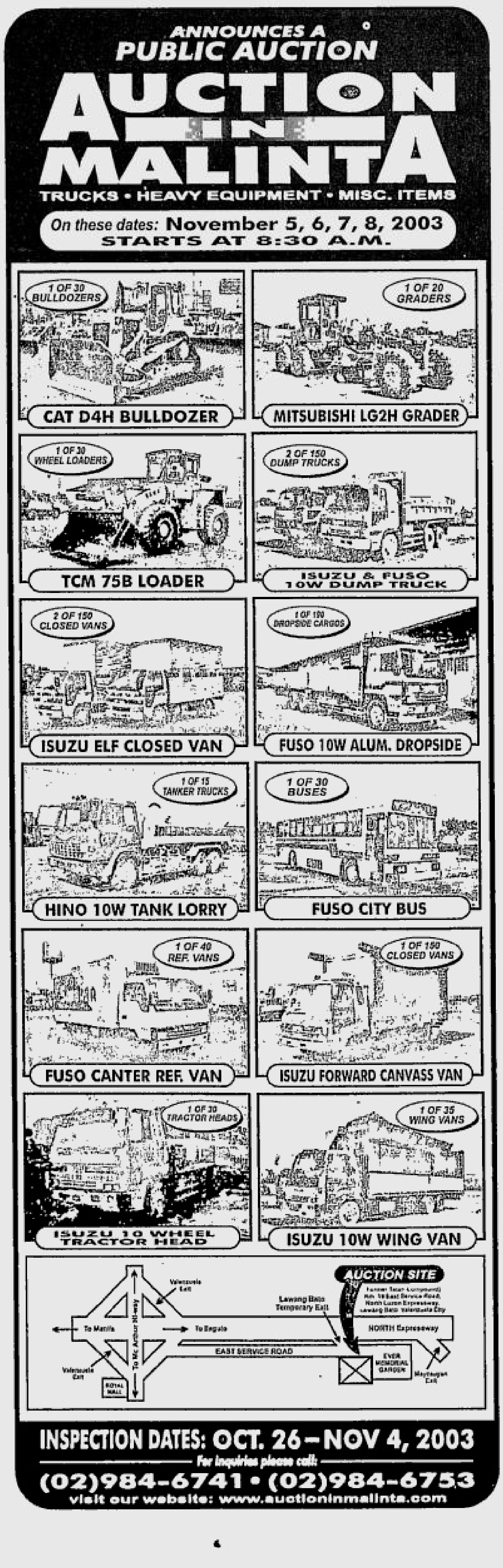
More than 20,000 fans, a national TV audience and more media than have ever covered a game in Gund Arena, will witness the Cavaliers' home opener against the Nuggets.

It also will be James' regular-season home debut, and the former Akron high school superstar—and No. 1 NBA draft pick—wants to put on a good show.

"A lot of people are going to be here," said James, who has averaged 18 points, 7.3 rebounds and 7.7 assists in three games. "I'm just here to show the city of Cleveland that we're a way, way, way better team than we were last year."

James grew up just 50 kilometers (30 miles) away, and he's expecting a large contingent of family and friends to be on hand: "Half of Akron," he says.

AP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Freestylers strut wares tomorrow at Rockwell

THE NIKE Freestyle Face Off fires off at 6 p.m. tomorrow (Nov. 7) with more than a hundred participants tipped to display their wares at the Rockwell Tent.

Nike Freestyle Face Off is a festive and competitive gathering of basketball and football enthusiasts with the knack for stylish movements and creative tricks. Called freestylers, these dynamic individuals are athletes and performers at the same time, who fancy playing the authentic game with a show of artistry.

The freestyle frenzy has invaded schools and villages, with representatives from Don Bosco Makati, Southville International, La Salle Greenhills, University of the East, St. Paul Manila, UP Manila, Miriam College, Dasmariñas Village, First Greenmeadows, Magallanes Village and San Lorenzo Village joining the event.

"We are excited to see how our freestylers will perform. As freestyle denotes, participants have the freedom to create their own moves. So it does not matter whether you're an expert or only a beginner, you just got to have the moves and the right attitude to show them off," said Rely-San Agustin, Nike Philippines Marketing Communications Executive.

The Face Off will formally start with a jamming exhibition for all participants at 6 p.m. This will serve as the elimination round, with the judges selecting from among them the 40 freestylers who will advance to the semifinal phase. The semifinalists will then perform simultaneously in groups of 10 to determine the elite circle of 10 finalists.

In the finals, the contestants will perform individually and will be ranked according to a set of criteria. The top four will be declared champions. Each of them will receive a trophy, P30,000 worth of Nike products and an all-expense paid trip to Singapore to compete in the Southeast Asian regional Final Face Off to be held at Youth Park in Somerset Road on Nov. 15.

Gabi confident vs Mangubat

Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

KIDAPAWAN City—Prince Gabi of North Cotabato yesterday vowed to wrest the WBC International flyweight title from Randy Mangubat in impressive fashion this Sunday.

The 24-year-old Gabi goes into the biggest fight of his career after terrorizing his sparmates at the Fort Stone gym here and this could spell trouble for the defending champion.

The Gabi-Mangubat showdown topbills the San Miguel Corporation-sponsored "Engkwentro" card at the 10,000-capacity North Cotabato Provincial Gymnasium.

The challenger also said he does not foresee any problem making the 112-lb limit during the official weigh-in on Saturday.

"Gabi weighed just two pounds over the limit yesterday. And he was even eating full meals," said a member of Team Gabi in an interview yesterday.

Meanwhile, Team Mangubat is expected to arrive here tomorrow.

Mangubat will be accompanied by manager Yuki Murayama and trainer Lando Espinosa, brother of ex-world champ Luisito Espinosa.

Action in the biggest ever boxing card here starts at 1 p.m. on Sunday

Cebu hosts NBL

GAMES SATURDAY (*New Cebu Coliseum*)
5 p.m.—Ozamiz vs M. Lhuillier
7 p.m.—Spring-San Pablo vs Grachiya-Adamson

CEBU CITY—Shineway-Ozamiz tackles M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu as they renew their rivalry on Saturday in the Panasonic NBL Regional Cup at the new Cebu Coliseum here.

Defending champion Ozamiz and back-to-back titlist Lhuillier collide at 5 p.m. in the opener of Panasonic NBL Cup's first doubleheader.

Newcomer Grachiya-Admason faces Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo in the second game at 7 p.m.

Coach Francis Rodriguez's Ozamiz cagers are determined to defend the regional crown they won at the expense of the Cebuanos. Team leader Edgar Echavez has returned after a brief stint in the PBA to spark Ozamiz's campaign.

Ozamiz is also banking on holdovers Fred Sampilo, Boyet Guerrero, David Cabrera, Donny Cabigkis and Chris Ferraren and newcomers Alwyn Flores, Arden Guiyab, Jhayson Alminario, Arnold Booker and Christopher de Jesus.

'Ang Basketbol ng Bayan'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE PBL basketball season begins on Nov. 8 (this Saturday) at the Pasig Sports Center.

Here's a glass to the tournament I will now start calling "Ang Basketbol ng Bayan."

Why the new tag?

For one, the PBL has not only survived turbulent times, and that is to mean not only overcoming one economic hump after another but also standing up to its big league buddy—the PBA. Resiliency they call it. For nearly 20 years now, the PBL has withstood the challenges of the times despite its almost meager resources yearly, if not clinging on to a virtual life interim in nature and an almost ad hoc style of existence. One's goodness is and has always been a passport to survival. The one who said the pan de sal would shrink to mosquito size could be six feet under the ground by now but the Pinoy daily bread is still very much around. The good can only get better as the years go by. Like the PBL.

For another, the PBL has, through the years, embraced the warmth of participation of the country's most respected schools—De La Salle, Far Eastern University, University of Sto. Tomas, Adamson, University of the Philippines, Letran, San Sebastian, University of the East and Ateneo to name only a few. The giants in the corporate ladder of business have also been joining the PBL consistently, among them San Miguel Corporation, RFM-Swift, Crispa, Welcoat Paints, Blu, Hapee Toothpaste, Shark Energy Drink, ICTSI and, at one time, even the gargantuan food conglomerate Triple-V through its Kamayan-Saisaki chain of restaurants. Truly, the cast that comes almost yearly simply reflects the true nature of the PBL—the *basketbol ng bayan*.

I heard that this season, the PBL would have a two-pronged TV coverage—Studio 23 of the giant network ABS-CBN and the cable power of Solar Sports. That could only mean one thing: the PBL has really grown that big and is ready to join the big league, if it hasn't yet been considered as one. If only for that alone, the PBL to me has become big league. Everybody knows by now how Studio 23 has made an impact in its coverage of both the UAAP and the NCAA for the last two, three seasons. Superb, to say the least. Take a bow, Mr. Peter Musngi. You've become the Lopezes' new St. Peter. And now this, Solar Sports entering the fray. Wow! And I thought Solar Sports was only for NBA stuff. Here's a glass to you, Mr. Ralph Roy. To you, too, Mr. Arnold Arandilla. Your Solar Sports, indeed, has become Mr. Somebody, despite still being a virtual new kid in town. You guys do know your basketball. You guys do know a big leaguer when you see one.

And, yes, add VDV's Bobong Velez, the land's undisputed maestro of sports marketing, into the bandwagon and what do we have here? A blockbuster of a cast for PBL's Chino Trinidad and Dioceldo Sy, the twin powers of the league long dormant as a basketball volcano now all pumped up to explode, again, this year—and beyond.

Make way then for the grand entrance of the brand new PBL season, "*ang basketbol ng bayan*." After its launch on Saturday, everything else is gravy.

***

FASTBREAK. Because late is never late, happy birthday to Bobong Velez, the man behind the glory years of the spectacular TV/radio coverage of the PBA when the PBA was still the PBA in all its grandeur and glory. Bobong celebrated on Nov. 4...Valentin Dakuykoy wants to know where The Dyna Souls, The Beatles of the Philippines, play—if they still play at all. He can be reached at 0918-9177150. If Daki (Valentin Dakuykoy's nickname, of course) could have his way, he would want The Dyna Souls to play at Rockwell's Dish and call their gig as simply "The Beatles Night." Of course that could happen only if Daki would become the new manager of The Dyna Souls. What do you think, Mr. Philip Cu-Unjieng?

BADMINTON TOURNEY
Volvo wrapped up an agreement to present the Mayor's Cup Badminton Tournament 2003, which will be held at the Manila Polo Club from Nov. 7-17. Competing teams include Globe Platinum, Pru-Life U.K., Coca Cola, Marks and Spencer, Yonex, Philippine Star, ABS-CBN, Manila Polo Club 1 and 2, Metro Magazine, Jollibee, RCBC, and Summit Publishing. In photo during the signing of agreements are (from left) Atty. Alberto B. Arcilla, President and CEO of Viking Cars, Inc. (Volvo); Hon. Mayor Jejomar C. Binay of Makati City; Ms. Liza P. Dy, Events Manager of Viking Cars Inc.; and Mr. Lito Anzures, Consultant, Office of the Mayor. The tournament is a project of Workfors Plus Events and Project Management. For inquiries, call tel. no. 634-1241.

Sta. Lucia golf resumes at Alta Vista

CEBU—Campaigners in the 2003 Sta. Lucia Tour will play their practice rounds at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club course today, hoping to familiarize themselves with the conditions for the Visayas leg considered to be the most critical in the race for the overall championship.

While players of the host Alta Vista contingent take a rest on the eve of the second stage of a three-part showdown, the five other clubs in the roster reacquaint themselves with the speed of the greens and the yardages of the up-and-down layout.

The consensus is that the Alta Vista squad will go for a three-division sweep to revive its hopes of defending the Sta. Lucia Cup, symbol of overall supremacy in the unique nationwide series featuring golf clubs flying the banner of real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty Development Corp.

Co-sponsoring the 36-hole tourney are Petron, Unirock, Readycon, Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Kodak, Titleist, Footjoy, Omega and Pagcor with Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and Dusit Hotel Nikko (Manila) as partner hotels, Samsung, Yamaha Golf Cars, Skygo Motorcycle as hole-in-one sponsors and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier.

Alta Vista takes its turn to host after being upstaged by Palos Verdes and Eagle Ridge in the team competitions in the Mindanao kick-off leg last month. The Cebuanos, however, scored a near sweep in the individual battles by winning three out of the four first place trophies.

Orchard, Royale Tagaytay and Tour newcomer Caliraya Springs have also regrouped to give themselves a bigger chance of moving closer to the team standings.

"The second leg has always been the pivotal leg and the team leading after this stage usually goes on to win the overall plum," said tournament chair Andy Dumlao.

Vicente Santos and engineer Winfred Gob, co-chair of the Tour's executive committee, likewise took note of the huge participation looming for the Cebu stop.

"We're looking forward to another big roster in Cebu and we're glad that the Tour continues to be of help in boosting domestic tourism including that of the previous leg in Davao," said Santos and Gob.

SPORTSWATCH

Jao, Lazaro prevail

JOLET Jao and Jade Lazaro stamped their class in the Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway with easy wins that left their rivals eating dust. Jao, a former motocross champion, who is now into super bikes, emerged overall champion in the 125 Underbone Grand Prix using his Kawasaki Aura Nexus 112. He recorded the fastest lap time of 1.03 in his race, which had a lap length of 1.5 km. "This is the product of years of hard work and dedication to one's craft," said Jao, who is also set to crown himself champion in the Batangas Racing Circuit. On the other hand, Lazaro ruled the 110 Super Stock event while pulling off the fastest lap time of 1.07. Lazaro also emerged king of the 400cc Intermediate Class. He also emerged 1st runner-up in his division despite missing two races in the Subic series organized by the National Racing Association. "It would have been better had I been able to take part in the entirety of the series because my placing would have been higher. But I know God has plans for me, maybe I can come back again and dominate next season," said Lazaro.

7-stag derby today

MORE than 60 fights have been lined up for the second round of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association 7-Stag Derby starting at 6 p.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. "Aficionados can expect quality fights from the start to finish because all of the participants are aiming for the prestigious Breeder of the Year award," said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. Last Tuesday's first round eliminations (44 entries) produced five bets with three victories each, bannered by Mauro Prieto's Anito entry. Prieto, who ruled the first leg last Oct. 25, has an enviable record of 10 consecutive victories. Also with three wins were engineer Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum), Ram Lopez (Altuz), Boy Gamilla (BMJ) and Levi Panganiban (Blew Blast). All qualifiers will advance to the championship round on Nov. 8. For inquiries, contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Breeders' Cup record

NEW YORK—Racing fans bet more than $120 million on Breeders' Cup day, a record handle that could have been higher if not for a 12-minute delay before one of the races was declared a dead heat. Wagering on the 12-race card at Santa Anita on Oct. 25 was $120,631,437 from all betting sources. The total was 3.7 percent higher than the previous mark of $116,367,198 set last year at Arlington Park. *AP*

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Race 4—1. Party Goer 2. Silver Lining 3. Gigi's Gold 4. Winning Post
Race 5—1. Lord of the Ring 2. Don't Tell Me 3. Pen Tristram 4. King of Arabia 5. Native Talent
Race 6—1. Real Gem 2. Juan Marco 3. Material Trick 4. Pride of Mandaue 5. Absurd
Race 7—1. He's Splendid 2. Join the Saints 3. Kitana 4. Brenda Starr
Race 8—1. Hellosilvergirl 2. Maginoo's Pride 3. Power Dance 4. Hazlimada 5. Tenacity 6. Tervalac

Zamar, Warriors part ways

ZAMAR

By Roy Luarca

HIS coaching stint with University of the East will soon be over, but Boyzie Zamar thinks the bond between him and his alma mater is forever.

"UE will always be a part of my life," said Zamar. "I'm thankful for the opportunity the management has given me to serve."

The 37-year-old Zamar has been handling the Warriors the last three years and though the University Athletic Association of the Philippines crown has eluded him, there were shining moments.

The Micaba (Manila Industrial and Commercial Basketball Association) championship in 2001, the Bantay Bata and Champion's League crowns last year and the Guam Invitational, the National Capital Region eliminations championship and the National PRISAA (Private Schools Athletic Association) title this year.

These feats proved enough for Zamar, a defensive specialist during his playing days, to be chosen the 2002 UAAP, Bantay Bata and Champion's League Coach of the Year.

"It's time to move on. Look for new challenges and test the waters," said Zamar, who steered the Philippine team to the championship of the 2001 Southeast Asia Basketball Association and Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

"In the meantime, I'll be helping coach Aric (del Rosario) and coach Dong (Vergeire) prepare the national team to defend its SEAG crown in Vietnam in December.

With his contract with UE expiring only on Dec. 31, Zamar would still be handling the Warriors in the coming Champion's League.

There, Zamar hopes to close the UE chapter of his career on a bright note.

But even if he fails, another Zamar will be around to continue the family's basketball legacy with UE.

Paul Christian Zamar, a 15-year-old 6-foot point guard, is already causing a stir with the Baby Warriors. The son is going to tread the same path taken by his father.

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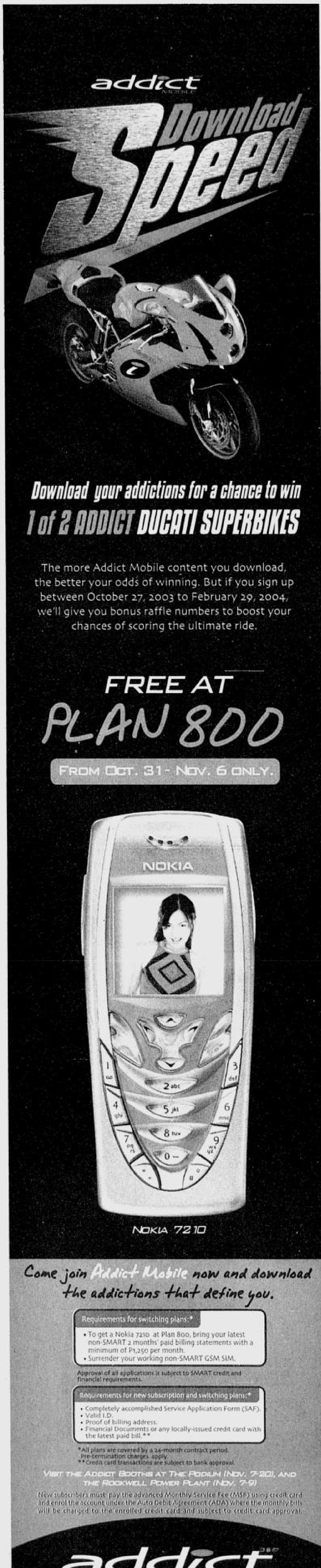

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SMART

Bernadette still studying her options

By Marinel R. Cruz

TELEVISION host Bernadette Sembrano is torn between staying with GMA 7 and leaving with Cheche Lazaro, whose "The Probe Team" is ending its 16-year partnership with the network.

"She is caught in the middle because she is close to Cheche and to the 'Wish Ko Lang' people," her manager Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano of Manila Genesis Entertainment told Inquirer Entertainment on Tuesday.

Angeli denied that she met with ABS-CBN executives to discuss Bernadette's transfer to GMA 7's rival network.

ABS-CBN was earlier reported to be eyeing Bernadette as replacement for Willie Revillame on "Willingly Yours," which aired its final episode last Saturday.

"I did meet with the ABS-CBN bosses," but the meeting was not about Bernadette but about her husband Gary Valenciano's show at the Araneta Coliseum, said Angeli.

"We never mentioned anything about her (Bernadette)," she added.

She said ABS-CBN is one of the major sponsors of "Gary V XXtreme" on Nov. 28 and 29.

An ABS-CBN insider, however, confirmed that the network is indeed trying to get Bernadette.

Bernadette started as a reporter on Lazaro's multi-awarded tele-magazine program six years ago. She started hosting the Saturday afternoon public service program "Wish Ko Lang" on GMA 7 in 2001.

Option to renew

"GMA 7 said it understands her relationship with Cheche, that's why it is willing to let her decide," Angeli said. "But she did sign an option to renew her contract with the network. 'Wish Ko Lang' is doing well for her and for the network."

She said Bernadette is still studying all her options.

"Her heart is also with Cheche's group," said Angeli. "Marissa Flores (GMA 7 vice president for news and public affairs) said the network is open to (Bernadette's leaving) because of her relationship with Cheche."

ABS-CBN vice president for program operations Jake Maderazo said another public service program, "Simpleng Hiling," would replace "Willingly Yours."

"Simpleng Hiling" will be hosted by Karen Davila and will air its maiden telecast this Saturday at 4 p.m.

Reacting to the report.that the network is wooing Bernadette, Maderazo said in a statement that ABS-CBN is "proud to have its present crop of multi-awarded professional broadcasters as its *kapamilya*."

He, however, added that the network "will always keep its doors wide open to those who express interest and are available to join the family."

No comment

"The Probe Team" supervising producer Albert Sumaya Jr. would not comment on Bernadette's case, saying "Probe" executives have no knowledge of her activities that do not concern the show.

"We have no stand on this because we don't directly work with Bernadette's manager," said Sumaya. "But as much as possible, we want to keep the team together."

Sumaya said that in the last episode of "The Probe Team," which will be aired on Nov. 28, the show would show highlights of its 16 years on TV.

Angeli said Willie tried to contact her three weeks ago, "but I never returned his call."

According to a source close to Willie, the latter sent flowers to Bernadette the day after "Wish Ko Lang" won the best public service show in the Star Awards for TV last month.

Willie won the award for best public service show host.

BERNADETTE/ A27

'LIBERATED'

Some bits of brilliance, some really awful bits

SEXUAL PILEUP. The movie is long on nudity and short on the development of the characters played by (from bottom) Vasquez, Zubiri, Velayo and Prieto.

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

RIGHT away, this bold movie earns points with its title: "Liberated." For audiences of the genre, it gives the immediate impression that the characters in this movie are not the types who would have any qualms about "putting it out."

For those looking for a little more substance beyond the usual saucy sex scenes, the title speaks of a theme that explores a brave new world out there, one that casts aside the puritanical conceits and the outdated cultural, philosophical and theological commitments of a bygone era. The production notes distributed by its producer, Seiko Films, say "Liberated" is about people who "challenge society's norms on love, sex and virginity."

In a nutshell, I was right on the first assumption—about the characters without qualms; and wrong on the second—about the substance.

"Liberated"—touted by its creators as a production that "sets a new standard for sexy films"—introduces either new lows or highs, depending on which of the two audiences I mentioned you belong to. I belong to a little bit of both. So for me, "Liberated" has some brilliant bits and some really awful bits, all jumbled together.

First 10 seconds

First the brilliant bits. If "Liberated" contained nothing else, it would pass into memory as that movie with plenty of great looking sex scenes. If you're wondering how much nudity there is in the movie and how enterprising the actors would be in various states of undress, "Liberated" answers these burning questions for you in its first 10 seconds.

The opening scene has Diana Zubiri, she with the lovely pair of knockers, engaged in sexual hijinks in a car-wash shop with a guy (whom we won't ever see again after his 15 seconds of skin).

We're offered everything of Zubiri. As it turns out, her character Pauline, from whose perspective the narrative is told, would spend the rest of the movie in a state of constant sexual explosion. Pauline is horny and unashamed to be so. She goes about her days and nights fulfilling her most ardent sexual desires: where, how, why and with whom, it doesn't seem to matter (she's supposed to personify the movie's title). Sex for Pauline is not just the ultimate natural high; it's virtually the Tao of her existence. She even gives a whole new dimension to the meaning of love—a twist, if I may say so, on the famous line from "Love Story." For her, love means never having to say you're sorry when you get down and dirty.

If we're offered everything of Zubiri, we are offered not much less of her co-star, the painfully gorgeous Francine Prieto, who plays Pauline's best friend Trixie, a virgin whose idea of virginity is not clouded by scholastic impressions. Nope, Trixie, though a virgin as far as an intact hymen is concerned, is by no means virginal. She adheres to the Clintonian principle of virginity, which holds that oral sex is not sex per se. Hence, she and her artist boyfriend Tony (Christian Vasquez) can do practically everything as long no penetration takes place. Trixie believes in saving herself for marriage. Whatever.

Not a fine example

If you're looking for a fine example of how a movie can be emotionally and sexually charged with nothing more than the barest hint of nudity, then go look somewhere else. Because in "Liberated" what you see is what you get, and you see and get pretty much everything.

I don't know how much of what I saw in the press preview would end up being shown during the regular screening of the movie. I fear that the prudes at the MTRCB would prove themselves a little too enthusiastic in cutting up the movie, thereby making its bootleg version all the more popular.

In any case, if the cliché is true that one man's pornography is another man's art, then there's something in "Liberated" to engage, arouse and/or offend just about every possible taste.

My own ideas about what's lewd, indecent and obscene have changed a lot since that summer I got hold of a Playboy copy that featured Tetchie Agbayani in all her naked glory. I'm not the least offended by lingering shots of Prieto's nipples being licked or Zubiri getting pumped like an artesian well. In fact, the sex scenes are swankily shot.

Short on plot, character

Director Mac Alejandre's imagination is hyperactive and cinematic. He and cinematographer Romy Vitug romp freely through every effect, lighting trick and camera movement they can think of. The kinetic and artistic visuals of "Liberated" raise it above the kind of soft-core sex flicks the local film industry usually produces.

And now for the really awful bits.

But a serious movie purportedly about "love, sex and virginity" needs to do better than its own sex scenes, no matter how artfully they are rendered. "Liberated," while having plenty of sex entertainment value and buckets full of technique to admire, falls rather short on its plotting, character development and message delivery. The filmmakers do not seem to have a fixed idea on the theme they wanted for this movie. For instance, are they endorsing the frank sexuality and jaded realism of Zubiri's Pauline or are they condemning it?

At first, it seems Pauline's championing the cause of female libido makes her an ideal heroine. She's not some helpless romantic, baffled, confused and caught up in the conspiracy of false love, and she's not afraid to live outside society's conventions. But then the movie suddenly shifts gears, showing us a Pauline who breaks down in tears, demolishes her room and swears at the world, all because her former boyfriend has spurned her attempts at a reunion (yet again).

I don't know about you, but I rather liked the erotic feminist.

Tuesday and Rodel

The dialogue, filled with bawdy humor and other things that can't be said in a newspaper, is quirkily good when it tries to capture the raffish and youthful spirit of people totally at home with their sexuality. It's when the writing goes into the truest longings and emotional currents at work in people's lives that it fails miserably. Instead of trying to weave socially progressive messages into the story, the writers show an over-enthusiastic clumsiness given to scenes of useless heavy drama.

None of the actors are any better than your average adult film thespians—except for the hilarious Tuesday Vargas (Ate Glo's partner on Sharon Cuneta's Sunday TV show) and a reoriented Rodel Velayo, the resident Seiko stud who plays a gay role this time around. Aside from these two, the actors look like they're reading from off-screen cue cards during scenes that require dialogue. But when it comes to those sex scenes, they're so on the money.

If Seiko's Robbie Tan intended to produce a skin movie with some artistry, then "Liberated" is a success despite its strained social messages about life. That's enough to satisfy the appetites of a lot of people, I suppose.

Which is just as well, since Zubiri and Prieto's characters are not half as interesting in love and happy as they are when they're horny.

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Double advocate, highly high positions and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: They say you were cured by this new herbal medicine.

Guest: Yes, it was like a miracle!

Host: You look so healthy now. What was wrong with you before?

Guest: Oh, so much! Before, I could not orinet. It was hard, I could not move my west!

(Orinet? Oh, urinate! West? Oh, waste! But this is still a booboo, because you move your bowels, not your waste.)

* * *

Host: How is your fight against corruption in the government succeeding?

Guest: Well, honestly, we have caught some low-position people. But we won't be happy until we have apprehended some officials in highly high positions!

(Highly high? That's really—high!)

* * *

Host: This next controversy is really difficult to present, because the issues appear to be one-sided. Also, all our guests tonight are for only one side, because the other side declined to send speakers. What do we do?

Co-host: Well, just for tonight, I can play double advocate!

(You mean devil's advocate, of course.)

* * *

Host: Can this controversy ever be cleared up to the satisfaction of most of the parties involved, not to mention the general public?

Guest: It's really hard, because the issues are complicated. As a result, many people are backing on the wrong tree.

(*Ay*, backing on the wrong tree!)

* * *

Newscaster: And now, the headlines: Voting is currently going on at the UN on the Philippines as non-permanent member of the United Nations!

(What? Oh, you mean, of the Security Council.)

* * *

Host: So, there's no way that you can come to a point of agreement with the other side to this argument? Your door is totally closed to any compromise?

Guest: *Hindi naman po kami* totally.

(Ah, so . . .)

* * *

Host: What do you like about this resort?

Guest: For meditating, it's a wonderful. It's a serene, calm . . .

(All those extra a's!)

* * *

Host: Do you think actors should be banned from running for top positions in the government, like president, vice president, senator?

Guest: I know the arguments against them, lack of preparation and training, and that. But who we are to tell them what?

(What *nga ba?*)

* * *

Host: Any final words?

Co-host: We'd like to thank our guests very much for coming on the show tonight.

(Don't say that—please!)

Change of heart

WE'RE relieved to hear that squabbling siblings **Assunta** and **Alessandra de Rossi** have finally decided to kiss and make up. Their feud over Assunta's beau and now husband **Jules Ledesma** left a bad taste in the mouth because it went against the importance that Filipinos have traditionally placed on family ties.

Blood is thicker than water, but some relatives' heads are apparently even thicker than blood, so the two sisters started feuding after, as Alessandra alleged, Ledesma treated their mother shabbily.

For that reason, she refused to even attend Jules and Assunta's church wedding this December, let alone act as her older sister's maid of honor.

Happily, time has a way of healing most wounds. Last week, Alessandra had a change of heart. As she puts it, "*Ayoko nang may kaaway*. So, I texted Assunta, 'Sorry *sa lahat, bati na tayo*.'"

Very pleasantly surprised, Assunta called her sister back and they arranged to meet to say "sorry" to each other. So, it's final: Alessandra will attend the wedding. What about the maid of honor bit? That's OK, too—as long as Jules sincerely apologizes to their mother.

Well, at last! For some months there, we wondered if Alessandra would continue to harden her little heart till hell froze over. Her change of heart comes in the nick of time to restore our faith in sibling love and forgiveness.

It also clears the air even for us who aren't directly involved in the familial teapot tempest.

Good for Alessandra, good for the Ledesmas and the other De Rossis, and good for all of us!

RPN 9's not so simple rules for acquiring new shows

SHOW TIME

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

DURING the month of May, network representatives from all over the world flock to Los Angeles, California, to view what the entertainment capital has in store for the global TV market.

For one whole day, they are holed up in one studio—say, Warner Brothers—to watch its upcoming programs, relates Monina B. Letargo, RPN 9's director for foreign program acquisition.

This year, RPN 9 snapped up Touchstone Television's "8 Simples Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter" and "Scrubs."

Both "8 Rules" and "Scrubs" will premiere on Nov. 12 at 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., respectively.

"8 Simple Rules" is a family comedy about a sportswriter who belatedly realizes that his two daughters have grown into teenagers. The father, Paul Hennessy (played by the late John Ritter), used to always work away from home, thus missing out on the formative years of his son and daughters. So when his formerly stay-at-home wife, Cate, suddenly decides to work as a hospital nurse, he is forced to take on a more sedentary job as a columnist to look after their kids. How Paul helps the Hennessy girls, Bridget and Kerry, deal with adolescent angst and joys causes lots of hilarious situations. Still, he emerges as the loving dad at the end of the day.

"8 Simples Rules" takes a dramatic twist, though, when in one episode, Paul dies and the whole family mourns for his loss. Ritter died of aortic dissection two months ago.

According to a recent Associated Press interview, Ritter won't be replaced in the show. RPN's Letargo shared that Paul's father would move in to take care of Cate and the kids.

"Scrubs" comically delves into the world of medical interns. It stars Zach Braff as J.D. Dorian, Sarah Chalke as the beautiful and driven Elliot Reid, Donald Faison as Chris Turk, John C. McGinley as the abrasive and worldly Dr. Cox, and Judy Reyes as the caring but jaded Nurse Carla Espinosa. Creator and executive producer is Bill Laurence, the man behind the hit Michael J. Fox sitcom, "Spin City."

THE CAST of the medical comedy

THE LATE Ritter will not be replaced on "8 Rules"

Tough competition

In choosing a canned (or ready for airing) show, Letargo said RPN 9 follows certain criteria. "It has to cater to our target market, which is made up of people from the 20–35 age group," she explains. "The series should also make it to US TV. Not everything that the studios let us watch in LA will be seen on TV in the States."

Sometimes, Letargo added, a show can be axed without completing a season, which varies from 22 to 28 weeks. If that happens, a buyer like RPN can lose a lot of money.

"And it has become a make-or-break situation out there," she pointed out. "A show's life span shortens every year. Gone are the days when a show would run for 10 years."

The buying pattern of canned shows in Hollywood has changed, too, she said, because of oversupply of TV channels (mostly cable) and the consolidation of media outfits (Viacom, for instance, is into broadcast and cable TV, film production and publishing).

That situation, plus the strengthening hold of local programs on Filipino viewers, makes it difficult for RPN 9 to compete with giant networks.

"*Kailangan malalim ang bulsa mo*," said Letargo, who's been buying foreign shows for Channel 9 for the last six years. "But we have the 'it' in choosing shows."

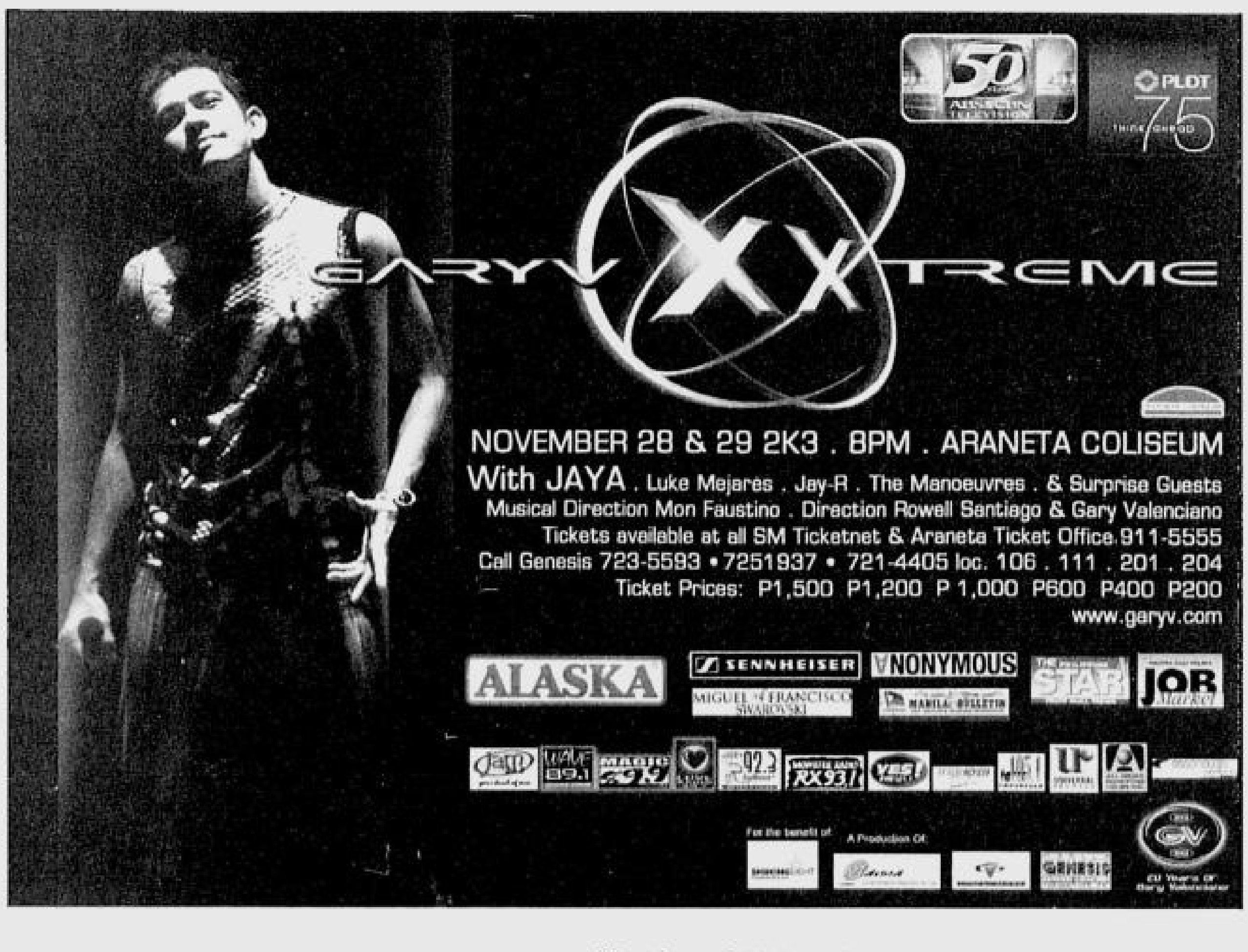
She cited "Felicity," "Enterprise," "Agency," and the Oscars telecast as the popular shows on RPN 9. The right to air the Miss Universe pageant is the most expensive.

Bernadette still studying...

From page A26

GMA 7 had suspended Bernadette after she walked out at the end of the late-evening newscast "Saksi," after her co-anchor, Arnold Clavio, read a statement that said GMA 7 was not airing "The Probe Team" episode that Bernadette had researched and would have presented, on the lifestyle check of Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chair Efraim Genuino.

This triggered talk that Bernadette wanted to leave the network.



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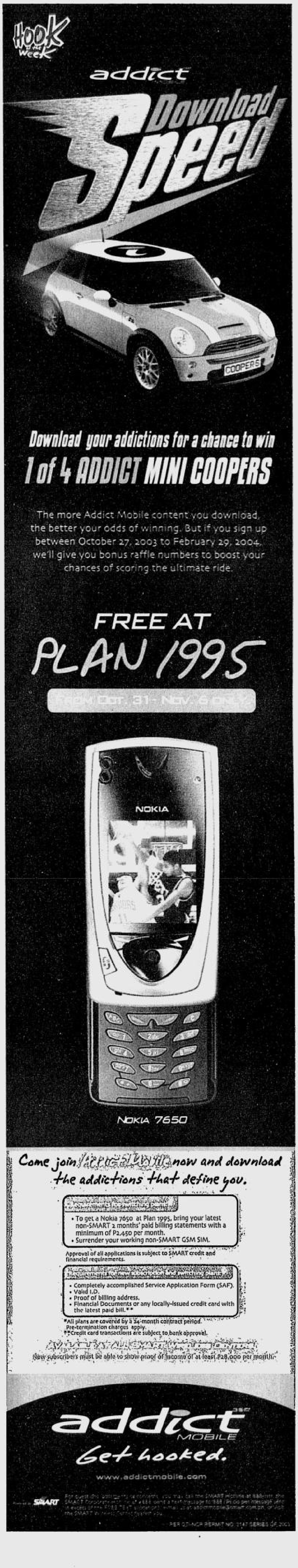

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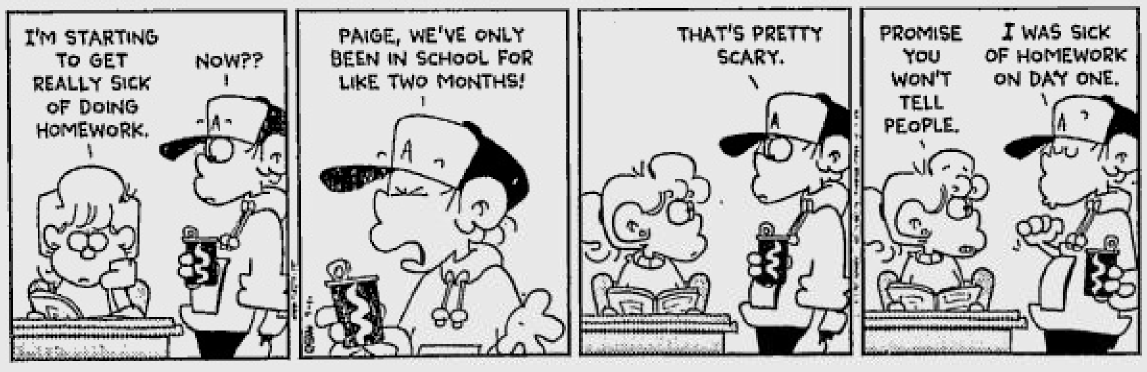
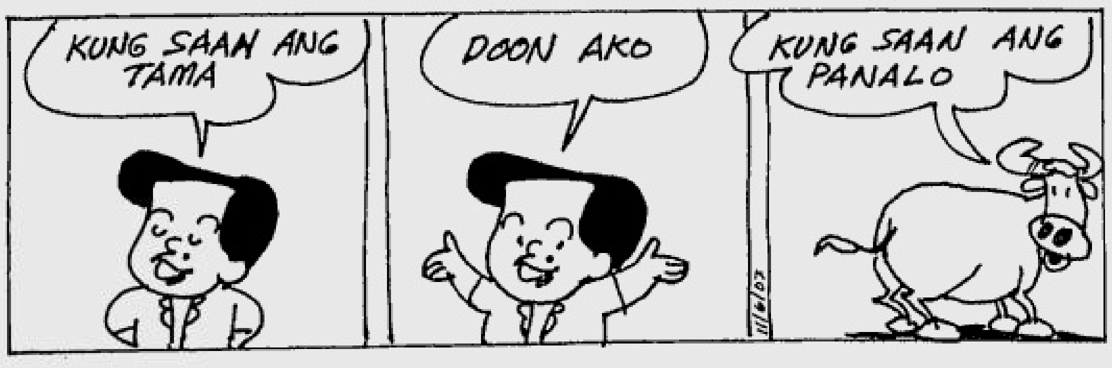
BY BILL AMEND


I'M STARTING TO GET REALLY SICK OF DOING HOMEWORK.
NOW??
PAIGE, WE'VE ONLY BEEN IN SCHOOL FOR LIKE TWO MONTHS!
THAT'S PRETTY SCARY.
PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL PEOPLE.
I WAS SICK OF HOMEWORK ON DAY ONE.

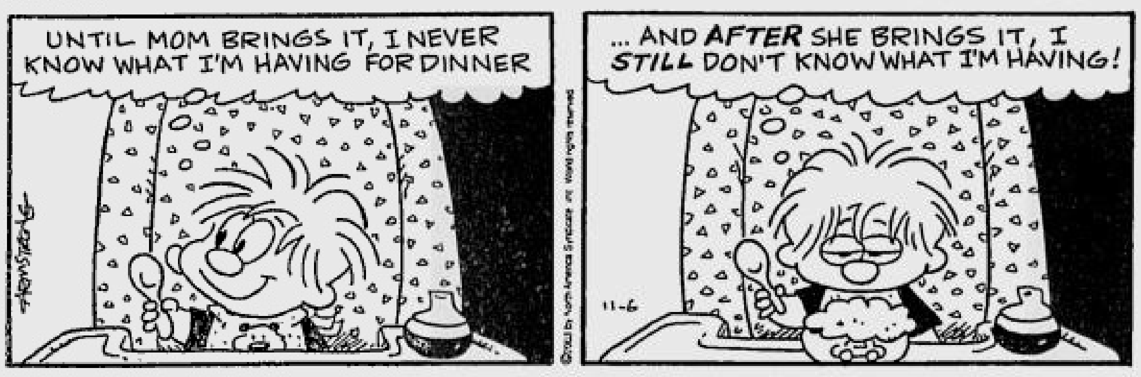
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KUNG SAAN ANG TAMA
DOON AKO
KUNG SAAN ANG PANALO
11/6/03

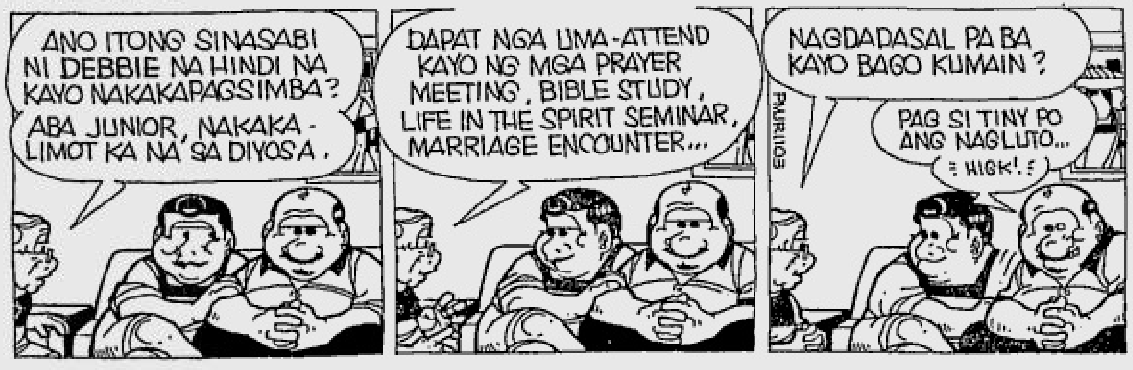
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


UNTIL MOM BRINGS IT, I NEVER KNOW WHAT I'M HAVING FOR DINNER
... AND AFTER SHE BRINGS IT, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M HAVING!
11-6

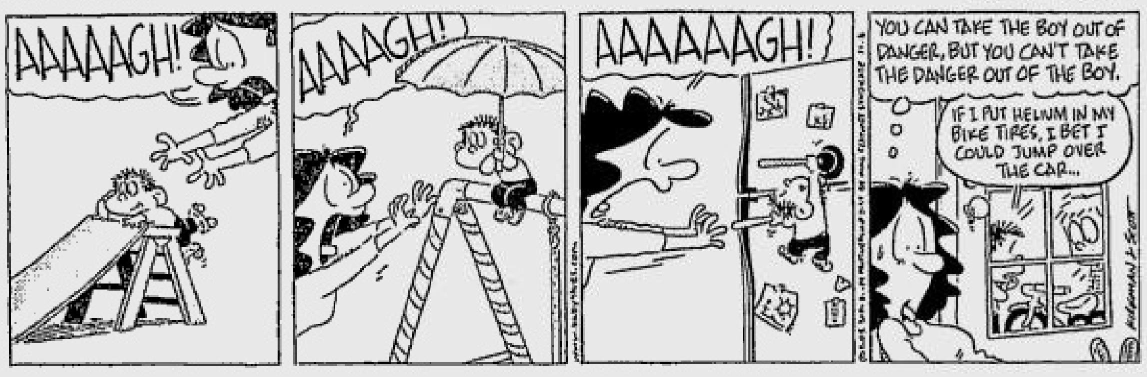
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO ITONG SINASABI NI DEBBIE NA HINDI NA KAYO NAKAKAPAGSIMBA?
ABA JUNIOR, NAKAKA-LIMOT KA NA SA DIYOSA.
DAPAT NGA UMA-ATTEND KAYO NG MGA PRAYER MEETING, BIBLE STUDY, LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR, MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER...
NAGDADASAL PA BA KAYO BAGO KUMAIN?
PAG SI TINY PO ANG NAGLUTO...
HIGK!

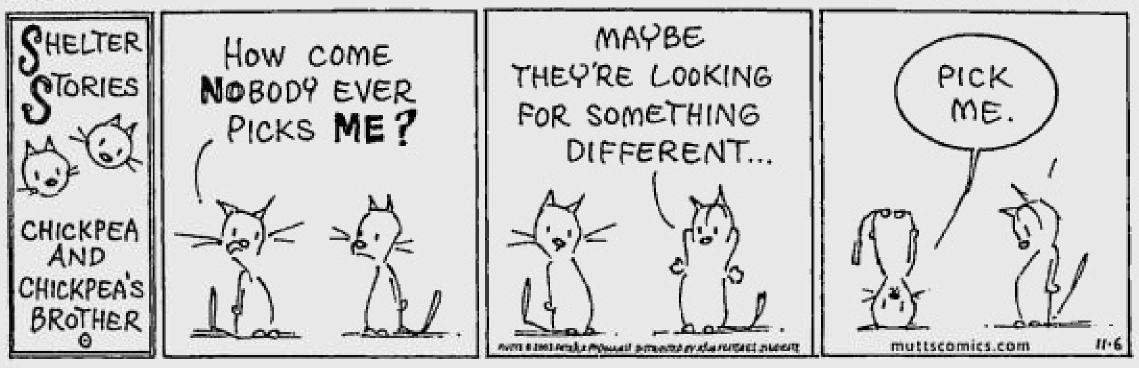
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AAAAAGH!
AAAAGH!
AAAAAAAGH!
YOU CAN TAKE THE BOY OUT OF DANGER, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THE DANGER OUT OF THE BOY.
IF I PUT HELIUM IN MY BIKE TIRES, I BET I COULD JUMP OVER THE CAR...

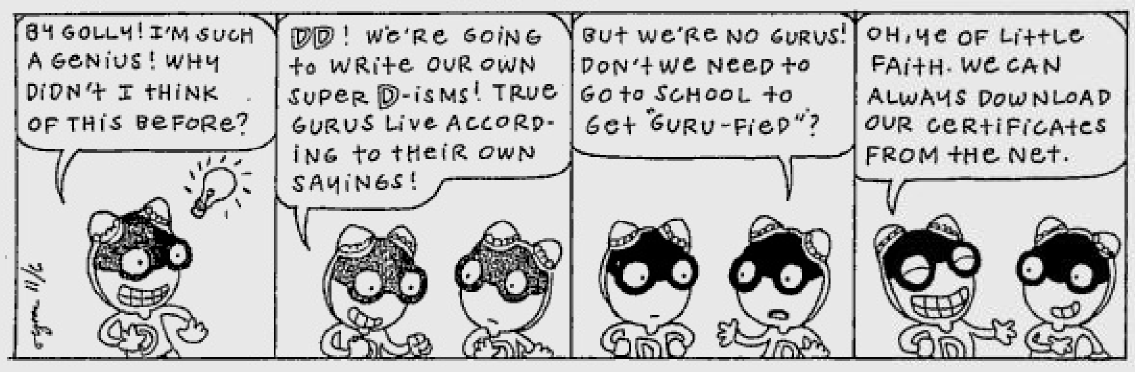
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER
HOW COME NOBODY EVER PICKS ME?
MAYBE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT...
PICK ME.
muttscomics.com
11-6

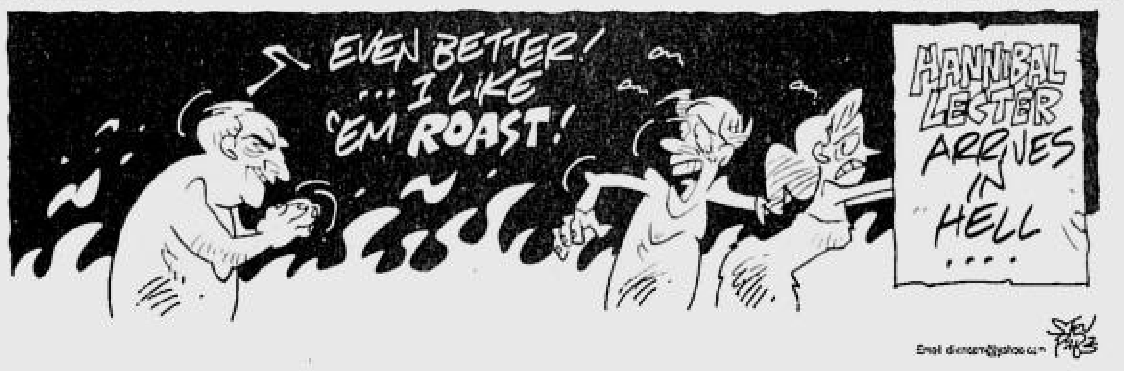
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


BY GOLLY! I'M SUCH A GENIUS! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE?
DD! WE'RE GOING TO WRITE OUR OWN SUPER D-ISMS! TRUE GURUS LIVE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN SAYINGS!
BUT WE'RE NO GURUS! DON'T WE NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL TO GET "GURU-FIED"?
OH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH. WE CAN ALWAYS DOWNLOAD OUR CERTIFICATES FROM THE NET.
11/6

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


EVEN BETTER! ... I LIKE 'EM ROAST!
HANNIBAL LECTER ARGUES IN HELL ...

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are optimistic, dynamic, versatile and stimulating. Because of this, you can rouse and enthuse others, be they individual friends or groups to which you belong. You easily delight and entertain people. You have conviction and self-assurance. Expect major changes for the better this year.
Birthdate of: Ethan Hawke, actor; Sally Field, actress; Kelly Rutherford, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You could be on the receiving end of gifts and goodies from others today. In some fashion, the wealth and generosity of others will benefit you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a fabulous day for love, romance, vacations, entertaining, fun and pleasure! You feel upbeat, positive and joyful about life. Share these feelings with others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Make plans to expand or improve your work environment today. Travel plans (connected with work) are also an excellent idea. Don't be afraid to think big!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are full of creative ideas today. This is a lovely day to work with children, tackle creative projects or do anything connected with the entertainment world .

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is an excellent day for real estate investments or opportunities to enhance your home and family situation. Everything connected with your domestic world gets a beautiful boost today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a lovely day to talk to others about your goals and ideals. It's also an excellent day to relate to siblings, relatives and neighbors. You feel optimistic about your future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your idealism is aroused today. Think about how you can shape your life so that it is possible to attain some of these ideals. After all, you're running the show.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In some way, this is actually a "lucky" day for you. Probably, your positive frame of mind is the thing that attracts opportunities and people to you now.

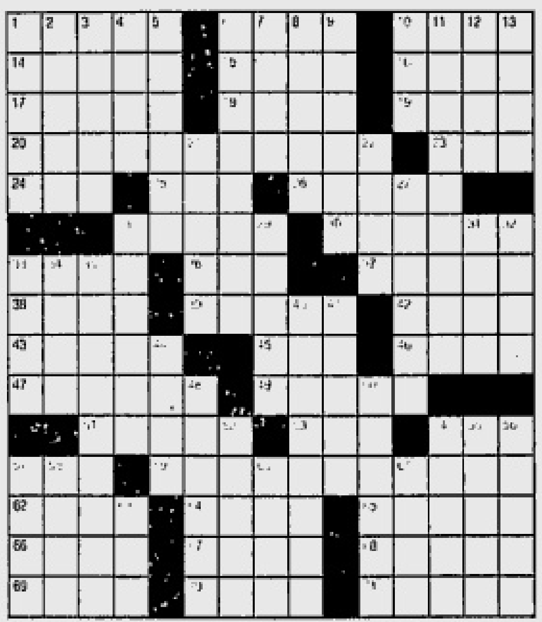
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might want to talk to someone to decide how to help someone else. You see ways to put certain resources to use. The efforts of yourself and others could combine to make a difference in the life of someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a wonderful day to learn new things about other cultures, philosophies, religions and belief systems. You are open-minded and tolerant today. Furthermore, you're hungry to learn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day for dealing with authority figures. Now is the time to ask your parent or your boss for that favor, raise or special perk.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): All of your dealings with others will be upbeat, positive and optimistic today. You feel turned on by life!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Nellie G. Becker
Leesburg, GA
11/6/03

ACROSS
1 Bit of a rascal
6 Indira's garb
10 Glance over
14 Forbidden
15 Highland family group
16 Stockings
17 Round windows
18 Occupancy fee
19 Newts
20 Jack's tote
23 Jack Sprat's no-no
24 Goddess of the dawn
25 Poetic peeper
26 Python or adder
28 Piercing pains
30 Ripped into
33 Brad of "Ocean's Eleven"
36 Bottom line
37 Toyota model
38 Ersatz butter
39 Stretch of land
42 Leaves
43 Cheerful
45 Full-house letters
46 Info from schedules
47 Buyers
49 Funniness
51 Film cuts
53 Ran into
54 "Mayberry __"
57 Thus far
59 Dairy decanter
62 Table scraps
64 Target
65 Vibrant
66 Colorado tributary
67 Dust particle
68 Diminishes
69 Frosted
70 Mimicked
71 __ Rock, a.k.a Uluru

DOWN
1 Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"
2 Chocolate tree
3 Borders on
4 Burrowing mammal
5 Agatha Christie sleuth
6 Abrasive brush
7 Smart guy?
8 Puts in proper order
9 Engrossed
10 Seashell seller of rhyme
11 Percolator
12 Nick and Nora's pooch
13 Aerie
21 Arctic goose
22 New Mexico art colony
27 South Africa's __ National Park
28 Pelted with rocks
29 Secret store
31 Quarter
32 Soviet news agcy.
33 Harbor
34 Bones of pelvises
35 Whistling pot
40 Fell apart
41 Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"
44 Neat and tidy
48 Mark of infamy
50 Capital of Canada
52 Sailing ship
54 European river
55 Peggy Lee hit
56 __ rehearsal
57 Yankee Berra
58 Sevareid or Clapton
60 Kissable girl?
61 Ali, formerly
63 Blue

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	M	A	■	C	H	E	F	S	■	A	L	M	S
A	L	E	C	■	H	A	I	L	E	■	M	O	A	T
K	A	N	E	■	A	N	N	U	L	■	A	N	T	I
E	M	U	■	I	N	D	E	X	F	I	N	G	E	R
R	O	D	E	N	T	S	■	■	P	O	D	■	■	■
■	■	R	O	D	S	■	S	U	I	T	A	B	L	E
S	H	I	N	Y	■	S	O	R	T	A	■	O	A	T
L	I	V	S	■	T	A	N	G	Y	■	B	O	Z	O
I	V	E	■	T	I	N	G	E	■	T	O	K	E	N
D	E	N	T	U	R	E	S	■	R	E	B	A	■	■
■	■	■	O	N	E	■	■	T	O	A	S	T	E	R
M	A	N	U	A	L	L	A	B	O	R	■	A	L	I
I	G	O	R	■	E	A	T	I	N	■	I	B	I	S
R	O	M	E	■	S	N	O	R	E	■	A	L	O	E
A	G	E	D	■	S	A	N	D	Y	■	N	E	T	S

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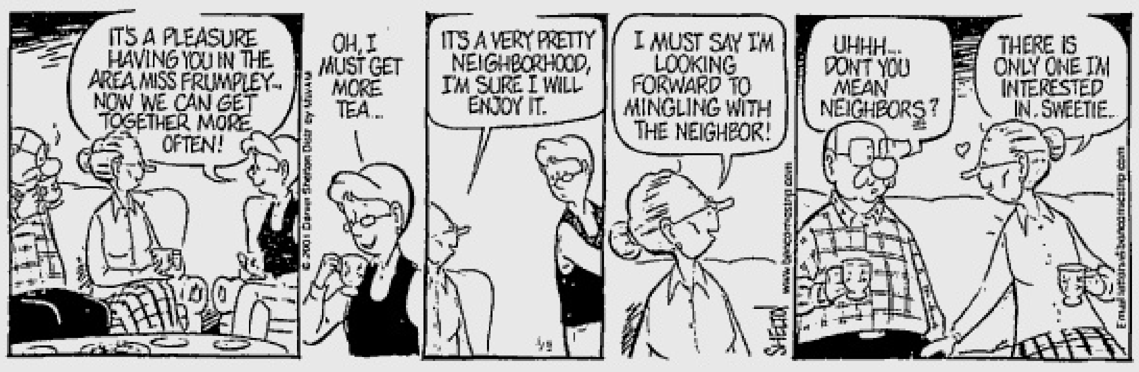
11/6/03

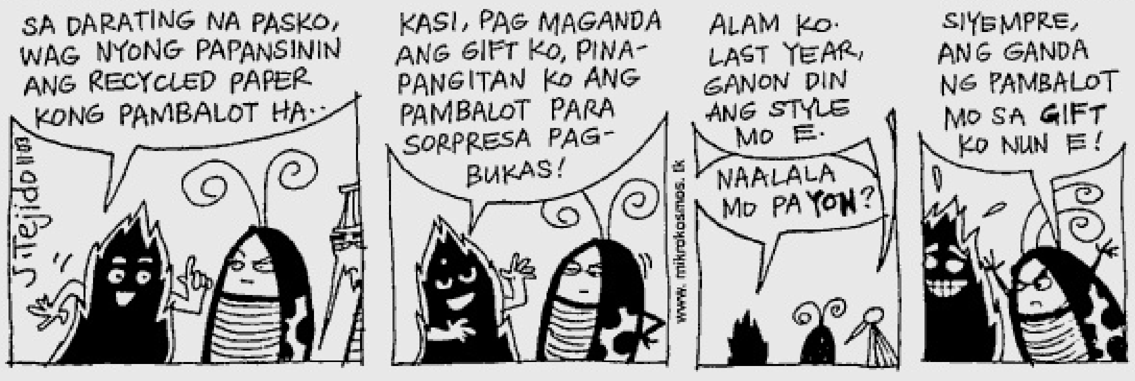
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S A PLEASURE HAVING YOU IN THE AREA MISS FRUMPLEY... NOW WE CAN GET TOGETHER MORE OFTEN!
OH, I MUST GET MORE TEA...
IT'S A VERY PRETTY NEIGHBORHOOD, I'M SURE I WILL ENJOY IT.
I MUST SAY I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MINGLING WITH THE NEIGHBOR!
UHHH... DON'T YOU MEAN NEIGHBORS?
THERE IS ONLY ONE I'M INTERESTED IN, SWEETIE.

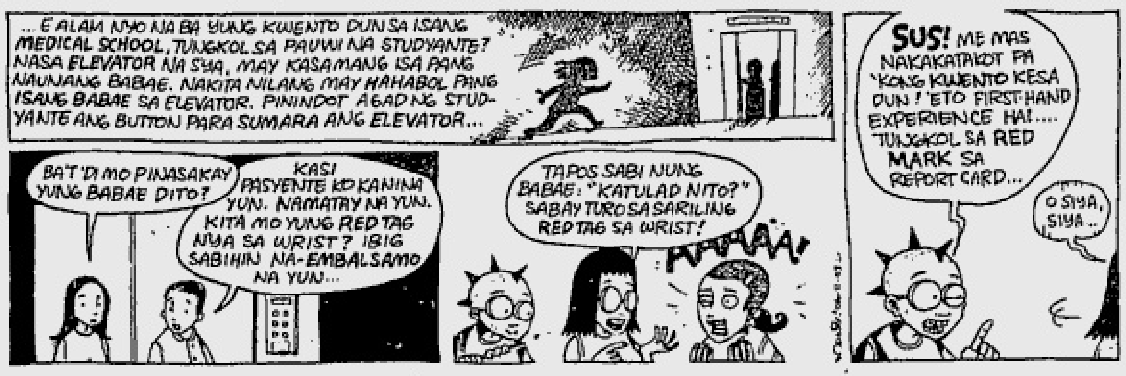
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA DARATING NA PASKO, WAG NYONG PAPANSININ ANG RECYCLED PAPER KONG PAMBALOT HA..
KASI, PAG MAGANDA ANG GIFT KO, PINA-PANGITAN KO ANG PAMBALOT PARA SORPRESA PAG-BUKAS!
ALAM KO. LAST YEAR, GANON DIN ANG STYLE MO E.
NAALALA MO PA YON?
SIYEMPRE, ANG GANDA NG PAMBALOT MO SA GIFT KO NUN E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

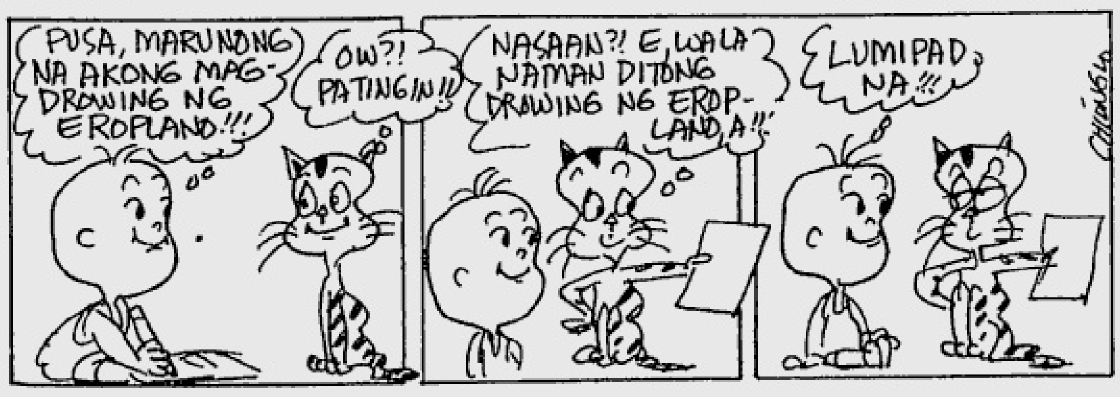
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...E ALAM NYO NA BA YUNG KWENTO DUN SA ISANG MEDICAL SCHOOL, TUNGKOL SA PAUWI NA STUDYANTE? NASA ELEVATOR NA SYA, MAY KASAMANG ISA PANG NAUNANG BABAE. NAKITA NILANG MAY HAHABOL PANG ISANG BABAE SA ELEVATOR. PININDOT AGAD NG STUDYANTE ANG BUTTON PARA SUMARA ANG ELEVATOR...
BAT'DI MO PINASAKAY YUNG BABAE DITO?
KASI PASYENTE KO KANINA YUN. NAMATAY NA YUN. KITA MO YUNG RED TAG NYA SA WRIST? IBIG SABIHIN NA-EMBALSAMO NA YUN...
TAPOS SABI NUNG BABAE: "KATULAD NITO?" SABAY TURO SA SARILING RED TAG SA WRIST!
AAAAA!
SUS! ME MAS NAKAKATAKOT PA 'KONG KWENTO KESA DUN! 'ETO FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE HA!.... TUNGKOL SA RED MARK SA REPORT CARD...
O SIYA, SIYA...

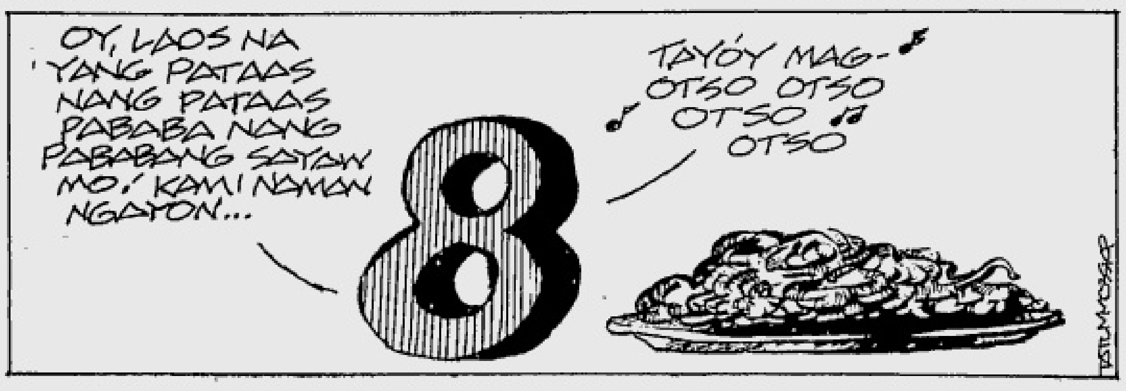
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, MARUNONG NA AKONG MAG-DROWING NG EROPLANO!!!
OW?! PATINGIN!!
NASAAN?! E, WALA NAMAN DITONG DROWING NG EROPLANO A!!
LUMIPAD NA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, LAOS NA YANG PATAAS NANG PATAAS PABABA NANG PABABANG SAYAW MO, KAMI NAMAN NGAYON...
8
TAYO'Y MAG-OTSO OTSO OTSO OTSO

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Aries Espinosa, Editor

Value-laden amenities for the modern traveler

THE LUXURIOUS and elegant Mandarin Suite is one of the four themed suites offered at Mandarin Oriental Club, an exclusive enclave located at the top three floors of the hotel

MANDARIN Oriental Club—private, exclusive and nestled on the hotel's top three floors—brings luxurious comfort and personalized service to peak levels through its ClubPlus package. Priced from $115++ (club deluxe single occupancy, $130++ for double occupancy) to $275++ (themed suite room for a minimum of two consecutive nights), the promotion proffers enticing room amenities, entertainment and wellness perks, in addition to the standard benefits offered at the club lounge.

The ClubPlus room package experience, which is offered until Dec. 31, includes the following pampering experiences: unlimited access to SpeedConnect—Mandarin Oriental's broadband Internet facility, currently considered the fastest broadband Internet service in a deluxe hotel; complimentary one suit/dress pressing per day; in-room coffee and tea-making facilities; Oriental Spa jet lag refresher massage (one per stay); free yoga classes at our Pure Yoga Studio; and complimentary in-house movie (one per stay).

The Club Lounge benefits include the following: executive breakfast, evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, all-day beverages at the Club Lounge; complimentary use of a club boardroom (2 hours per day); and concierge services.

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 750-8888 extension 2335, or through Mandarin Oriental's worldwide sales and reservations offices or the Group's direct online reservations service at www.mandarinoriental.com.

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
27th Floor, Trident Towers, 312 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 1200
Tel. (02) 889-2765/ fax (02) 889-4396
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18/ Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/Fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

Thai Festival of lights Nov. 8

IT'S THE FIRST full moon on Nov. 8 all over Thailand. Loy Krathong, the "Festival of Lights", will be celebrated with all the waterways in the royal kingdom aglow with lights from millions of floating offerings, or *krathong*.

For those who can't fly off to Thailand for a first-hand experience of one of Thailand's most charming and picturesque festivals that happens but once a year, Spices Restaurant at The Peninsula Manila offers the perfect solution, "Loy Krathong—Festival of Lights at Spices" on Nov. 8 at dinner time.

Often beautifully decorated, *krathong* (which means "leaf cup") are lotus-shaped "boats" made from folded banana leaves that one can fill with flowers, incense and coins, and are floated adrift on waterways and rivers when the full moon of the 12th lunar month lights up the night sky. Loy Krathong customs and traditions reflect the local belief of honoring the mother of water, Mae Khongka, for her bounty in providing water for agriculture, thus ensuring the livelihood of Thai people.

For Nov. 8, Spices Thai Specialty Chef Boonlert Boonchuay has prepared a special Loy Krathong Set Menu of delicacies normally associated with the festival. Appetizers include Thai spring roll, Minced shrimp and sweet corn in crispy shell, Spicy beef salad and Chicken wrapped in pandan leaves. The soup menu has Tom Yum Goong or spicy Thai seafood soup flavored with lemongrass, coriander, chili, *galanggal*, parsley and *kaffir* lime. The main course includes crisp-fried garoupa in tamarind-chili sauce, Phad Thai, Duck Curry and Steamed jasmine rice. For dessert, choices include fresh mango and sticky rice. All for P1,200++ per guest.

loy krathong

"Loy Krathong—Festival of Lights at Spices" will also let guests float their individually crafted complimentary *krathong* at the Spices pond. There's also the chance to win a round-trip ticket for two to Bangkok courtesy of Thai Airways International and a three-night stay for two at the fabulous and award-winning The Peninsula Bangkok, inclusive of daily American breakfast for two and dinner for two at Thiptara Thai restaurant.

The dinner event is co-sponsored by The Peninsula Bangkok and Thai Airways International. For inquiries and restaurant reservations, call The Peninsula Manila at 887-2888 extension 2168 and 2956 (Spices). To fully discover The Peninsula experience, call your travel professional, e-mail reservation@peninsula.com or visit www.peninsula.com.

Fun Karaoke Nights at The Bellevue Hotel

SING your heart out and shine like a star at Alabang's newest party venue—The Bellevue Hotel's 20/20 entertainment center. Guests and partygoers now have another reason to flock to the most happening place south of Metro Manila. Every Wednesdays is Karaoke Nite at 20/20, where anyone can get onstage and sing like there's no tomorrow!

20/20, Bellevue's premier entertainment center with a music lounge, main and sports bar is located on the hotel's top floor and is a fun place to spend relaxing evenings. Acoustic acts perform nightly, but the spotlight shines on hotel guests and revelers on Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. onwards. Aside from panoramic views of the Manila Bay sunset, scenic Tagaytay, Laguna de Bay, the Alabang residential areas and the Makati skyline, 20/20 also offers irresistible happy hour promos, sparkling spirits and appetizing food for guests' maximum enjoyment.

For inquiries, call 771-81-81.

Benjarong's flavors of Thailand

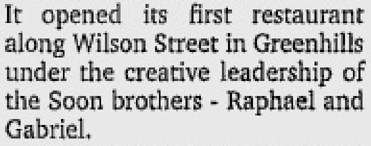
NOT to be missed is the finale of "Flavours of Thailand.... A Regional Food Fare", featuring northern Thai cuisine from Nov. 1 to 15 at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Benjarong Thai Restaurant. Thailand's northern cuisine hails from its cool, mountainous region and is strongly influenced by the climate and its natives who prefer to eat glutinous or sticky rice as the main constituent of their diet. Available for lunch and dinner are menus that include Larb Pla Muang Neua (northern Thai minced fish salad), Gaeng Hang Lay (northern Thai pork curry in rice and creamy coconut milk) and Khao Soi Gai (crispy egg noodle in rice curry sauce). For queries or reservations, call 867-3333 local 3351.

People, Events & Products

A *taste* of perfection

NORTH Park Noodle House first opened its doors in Manila and became famous for its different kinds of homemade noodles, and other kinds of Chinese delicacies.

On Sept. 6, 1994, North Park caught noodle-lovers by surprise. It opened its first restaurant along Wilson Street in Greenhills under the creative leadership of the Soon brothers - Raphael and Gabriel.



Great views from food critics prompted the Soon brothers to bring North Park to Makati located along Kalayaan Avenue on August 12, 1996. Six months later, it extended its place to Makati Avenue enabling them to serve their customers even better.

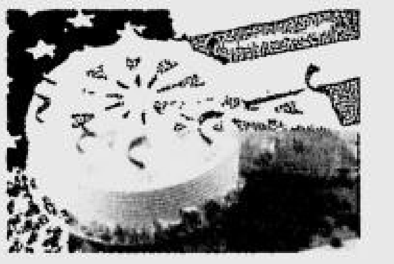
North Park made its come back along Wilson Street in Greenhills on October 2, 1999.

North Park opens its 3rd (Makati) branch at the Park Square Drive of Glorietta 2, at the Ayala Center in November 2003. the 2nd Next Door branch opened last July 2003 at the Makati Golf Club along Malugay Street, Makati City.

North Park and Next Door also delivers their tasty noodles right at the door of offices and homes near its restaurants.

Guided by the vision of its Management, North Park has become one of Manila's top chain of restaurants. Treating each customer as VIP.

CAKE OF THE MONTH



Lady Baltimore Cream Cheese and Walnut Cake. Dive into the luxurious texture and indulgent taste of butter sponge with amaretto and filled with a delightful mixture of cream cheese, chopped walnuts, dates and dried apricot. A rich combination that truly satisfies at P950 net (whole cake) or P95 net (per slice). It's available from Nov. 1 to 30 at the Lobby Lounge, Madeleine and all restaurants and bars at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino.

COCKTAIL OF THE MONTH

Nutty Manhattan. In celebration of everything American in you, fuel your senses with this fancy cocktail! Nutty Manhattan is a vivacious and intriguing mix of tasteful tequila, Kahlua, a whisper of peanut butter, a generous helping of bananas and a sprinkling of sugar at P180 net per glass. It's available from Nov. 1 to 30 in all restaurants and bars at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino

ASTORI
PLAZA
Serviced Residenti

GUINGONA AT ASTORIA PLAZA

Vice-President Teofisto Guingona was the guest speaker at the Civil Service Commission seminar held at Astoria Plaza's Manhattan function room.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAIN T

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Dao Ming Si to call on GMA

By Marinel R. Cruz
and Nap Gutierrez, *Contributor*

TAIWANESE superstar Jerry Yan, popularly known as Dao Ming Si in the phenomenal hit TV series "Meteor Garden," will pay a courtesy call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when he arrives in Manila today.

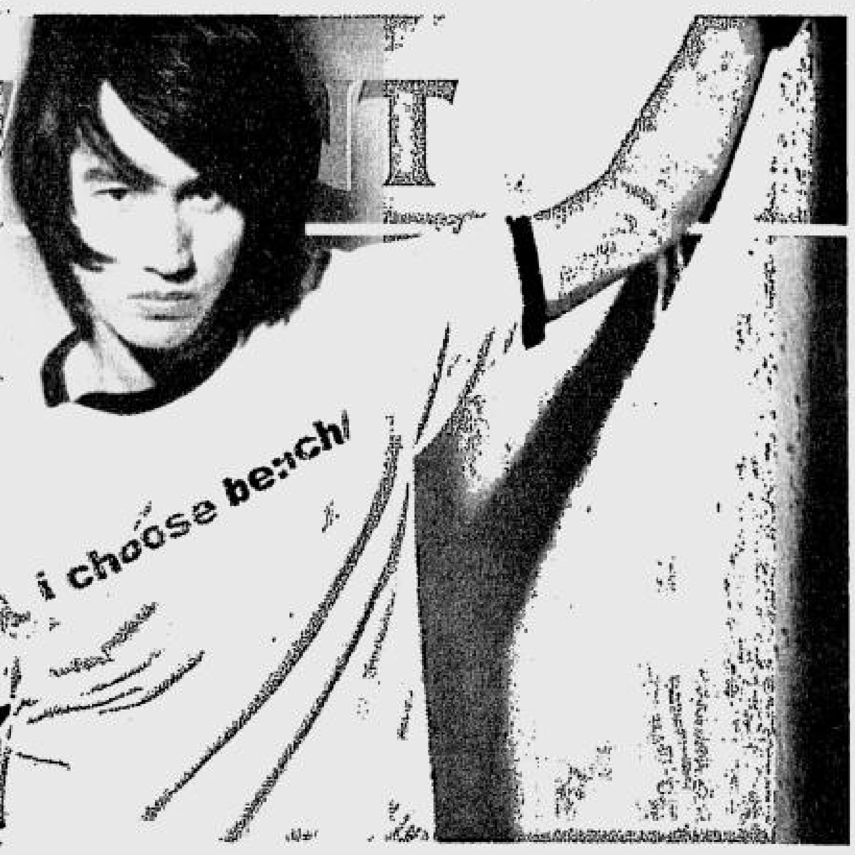
His much-awaited show with Vic Zhou and ABS-CBN stars at the Fort is on Nov. 29, but Yan is coming earlier as the latest star endorser of Bench.

The President herself confirmed the courtesy call in a radio interview yesterday morning. Yan is scheduled to meet with her at 2 p.m.

"(Yan) requested an appointment with the Philippine president," she said in Filipino in the radio interview. "It is a good chance to express our hospitality when known personalities visit Malacañang and greet the country through the President."

Yan, the most popular in the disbanded Taiwanese pop group F4, is expected on the 11:35 a.m. Philippine Airlines flight. Tomorrow, he will be in a press conference at Le Pavillon along Roxas Boulevard.

YAN THE MODEL. Many fans, reportedly including children of Cabinet members, have swamped Bench with requests to have their pictures taken with the Taiwanese pop idol.



The Taiwanese celebrity will be in Manila for only two days, brought over by Ben Chan's Bench, which reportedly paid Yan $250,000 or P14 million for the endorsement.

Chan was quoted as saying, "We're quite happy with our decision to make him our latest endorser because the public response has just been enormous and overwhelming."

Yan is flying back to Taiwan on Friday night, said a source.

The Bench staff reportedly has been flooded with requests from children of Cabinet members—among other fans—to have their pictures taken with Yan.

His itinerary does not include any television appearance.

Shirts that say "Dao shall wear Bench" and "I Choose Bench" as well as posters and billboards of Yan wearing the shirts were released two weeks ago.

Yan will be staying at the Peninsula Manila in Makati City, where he is set to dine with members of the press tonight.

On Nov. 28, he will return to Manila with Vic Zhou, also known as Hua Zei Lei in "Meteor Garden." They will perform in a show called "Happy 50TV: The Concert" the next night at The Fort open field in Taguig.

To perform with them are Barbie Xu and her younger sister Dee Xu, who had also performed with F4's Vanness Wu and Ken Zhu at the Ultra last Sept. 13.

Yan and the other members of the former F4 became wildly popular in the Philippines when ABS-CBN aired "Meteor Garden," followed by "Meteor Rain," where Yan plays the lead Dao Ming Si. Vanness is Mei Zhuo, Ken is Xi-Men and Barbie is Shan Cai.

Yan is finishing his first solo album, which Sony Music Philippines will release early next year.

Yan is reportedly also set to do a movie for Star Cinema early next year.

The show of Jerry and Vic at The Fort will be produced solely by ABS-CBN.

The network is offering a "buy-four, take-one" discount for buyers of the P1,500 tickets until Sunday, Nov. 9.

"Happy 50TV" also features Ai-Ai de las Alas, Vina Morales, the Hunks, Bayani Agbayani, Francis M., Andrew E., Kristine Hermosa, John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, John Prats, Heart Evangelista, Michael Josh Santana, Divo, King and Claudine Barretto.

Tickets to "Happy 50TV" are P5,000, P2,500, P1,500, and P500. They are available at all Ticketworld branches.

Inquiries and reservations can also be made at the Ticketworld hotline, 891-5610, or on-line at www.ticketworld.com.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
Ali 2	LIBERATED
Ali 3	THE RUNDOWN
Ali 4	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 5	MATRIX REVOLUTION
Ali 6	DUCK WATER
Ali 7	THE SPY

ARANETA COLISEUM

NOV 9	PBA GAMES
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 14	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 16	PBA GAMES

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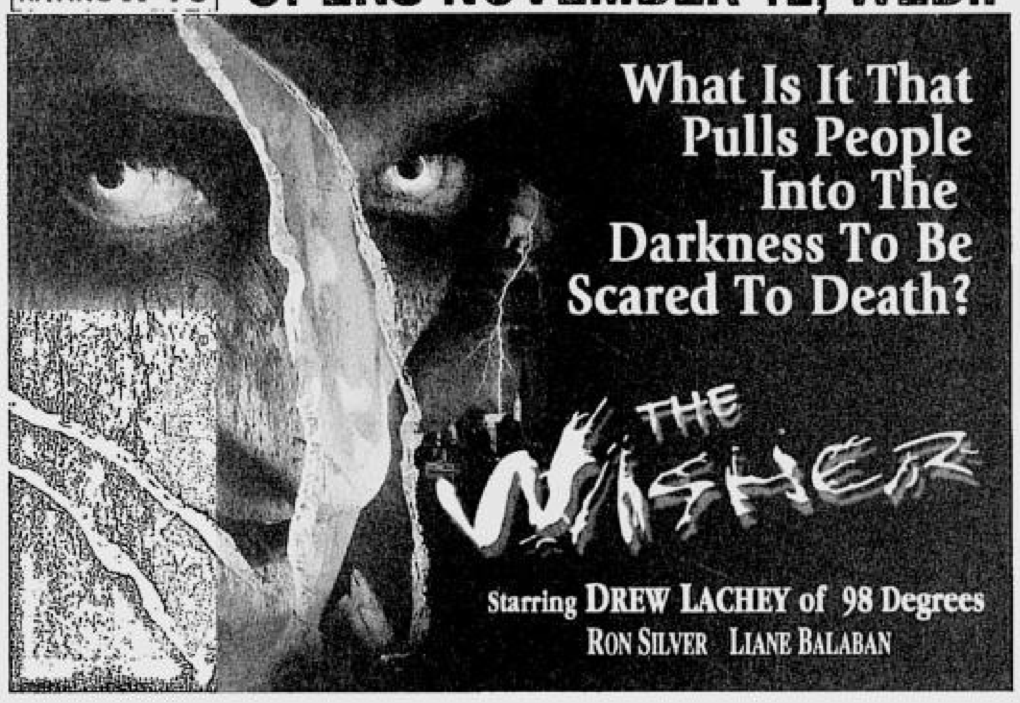
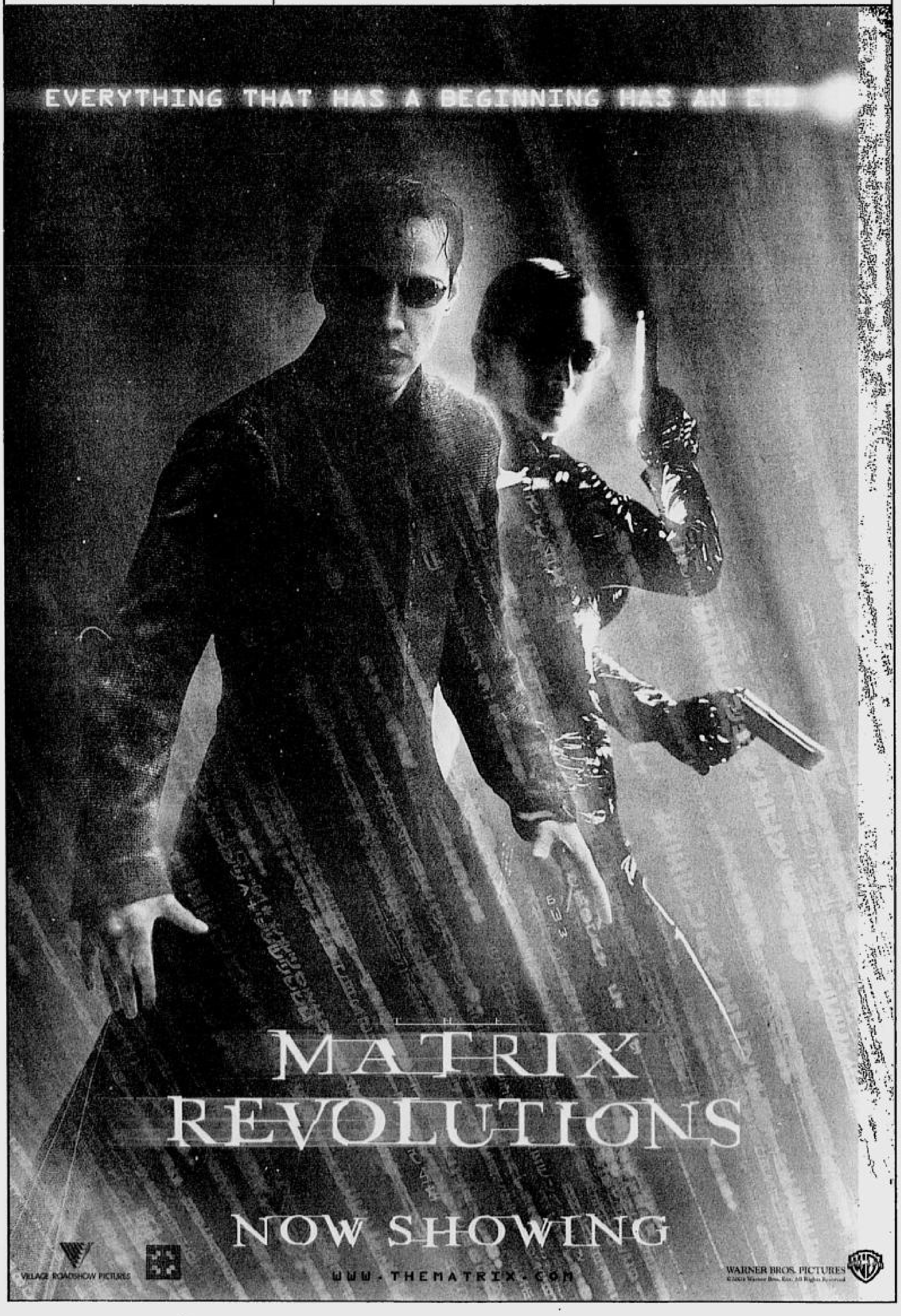

What Is It That Pulls People Into The Darkness To Be Scared To Death?
THE WISHER
Starring DREW LACHEY of 98 Degrees
RON SILVER LIANE BALABAN

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY · LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LIBERATED
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LIBERATED
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG LABI
CINEMA-3	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-7	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-8	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	UPTOWN GIRLS
CINEMA-12	SPY
CINEMA-14	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-15	MY FIRST ROMANCE

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	INNER SENSES
CINEMA-4	MATCHSTICK MEN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

'Kuh Hits Back' again

POP diva Kuh Ledesma performs all her hits in a show at Casino Filipino Tagaytay on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 9 p. m.

Titled "Kuh Hits Back," the show is a spin-off of Kuh's successful concert series at the Music Museum early this year.

Among the songs she is expected to perform are "I Think I'm In Love," "Bulaklak," "Till I Met You," "Dito Ba," and "Keep On Loving Me."

Joining the pop diva in the Tagaytay show is up-and-coming singer Rebekah, who is being managed by Headline Concepts, Kuh's management company.

After "Kuh Hits Back" in Tagaytay, the singer is scheduled to leave the country for the second leg of the "Diva 2 Diva" US tour, with Zsa Zsa Padilla.

Kuh and Zsa Zsa will perform in San Francisco on Nov. 22, Maryland on Nov. 23, San Diego on Dec. 5 and Florida on Dec. 7. Kuh will also have a benefit show on Nov. 29 in Los Angeles.

Kuh and Zsa Zsa's "Diva 2 Diva" album will be released by Viva Records this month. The album is the first-ever studio recording of the two artists together, a first in the local music industry.

BUSINESS

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October inflation slightly up to 3.1%

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSUMER prices rose 3.1 percent in the 12 months to October, higher than the 2.9 percent annual rise in September, due mainly to the depreciation of the peso, rising crude prices and an uptick in spending in preparation for the Christmas season, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco, however, said that such a rate of increase in the inflation would not lead to monetary tightening.

"It is well within our forecast range for the month. This places the projected rate for the year below the target range, an indication of a continuing benign inflation," Tetangco said.

"The BSP can maintain the current monetary policy stance,"he added. The BSP's overnight borrowing rate is 6.75 percent while its lending rate is 9 percent.

The October inflation brought the country's average inflation rate in the first 10 months of the year to 3 percent, still below the government's full-year target of 4.5-5.5 percent.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the inflation rate was expected to average at around 3.1 percent monthly in the next two months.

"The depreciation of the peso, higher crude oil prices and the seasonal uptick in food food prices are the main causes of inflation pressure," Neri explained.

On a month-on-month basis, the country's inflation rate stood at 0.1 percent in October, the same as in September, due to movements in the prices of clothing, services and miscellaneous items.

Economists said they were expecting price increases to stay below the official target this year, but some warned that the peso's weakness could translate into higher inflation in early 2004.

Steve Brice, chief economist for Southeast Asia at Standard Chartered in Singapore, said he expected consumer prices to rise in the coming months because of the lagging effect of a weaker peso.

The National Statistics Office reported that the annual inflation rate was higher in the National Capital Region at 4.9 percent.

The year-on-year inflation rate in areas outside the NCR remained at 2.4 percent.

By commodity groups, the inflation rate for food, beverage and tobacco rose to 1.9 percent in October from 1.4 percent in September while the rate for housing and repairs as well as miscellaneous items also increased to 3.2 percent and 2 percent, respectively, from 3 percent and 1.9 percent.

The inflation rate for food advanced to 1.9 percent in October from 1.4 percent in September due to higher prices of corn, dairy products, fruits and vegetables and meat. Slower rate increases was noted in the prices of cereal preparations, eggs and fish. The price of rice even went down due to ample harvests.

The index for fuel, light and water and services correspondingly softened to 8.1 percent and 5.8 percent from their respective rates of 9.6 percent and 5.9 percent in September while the inflation rate for clothing remained at 2.4 percent. *With a report from Reuters*

4 Japanese firms vie for ₱3-B wind power project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOUR Japanese firms have been pre-qualified to bid for the contract to build a wind power farm in Ilocos Norte worth $56 million or about P3 billion, the PNOC Energy Development Corp. said.

In an interview, PNOC-EDC chair Sergio F. Apostol said the following corporations were declared eligible to bid: Sumitomo, Kanematsu, Marubeni and Mitsui.

"We are issuing the bidding documents within this week although we have not yet set the bidding date," Apostol said.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which is funding the project, has tapped another Japanese firm—Electric Power Development Co. Ltd. (EPDC)—to help PNOC-EDC in bidding out the contract that will involve not only the wind farm but also the transmission lines required in the Northern Luzon Wind Power Project.

The Ilocos wind farm is expected to start operations in the middle 2005.

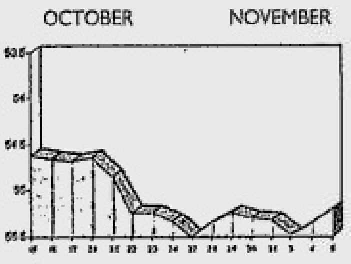
In a related development, the Department of Energy said last week that German lender Kreditanstaldt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) was planning to increase its concessional loans to Philippine wind power projects by 40 million euros.

In a statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said KfW was also set to award to the government a grant worth half a million eu-

4 JAPANESE/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱55.20 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 5, 2003

¥109.76 = $1

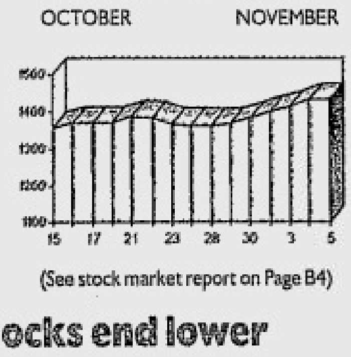
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 5, 2003

GOLD: $380.80-381.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 5, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end lower

SHARES yesterday fell back slightly after hitting an 18-month high the previous day as investors cashed in gains on selected large caps, traders said.

The market had gained for the past six trading days as investors anticipated positive third-quarter earnings results and shrugged off an increasingly bitter row over moves by Congress to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

The main composite index ended down 1.33 points, or 0.09 percent, at 1,430.94 points. On Tuesday, it ended at its highest close since April 2002. In the year to date, the index is up 40.5 percent.

Turnover grew to P965.92 million from P697.13 million on Tuesday. *Reuters*

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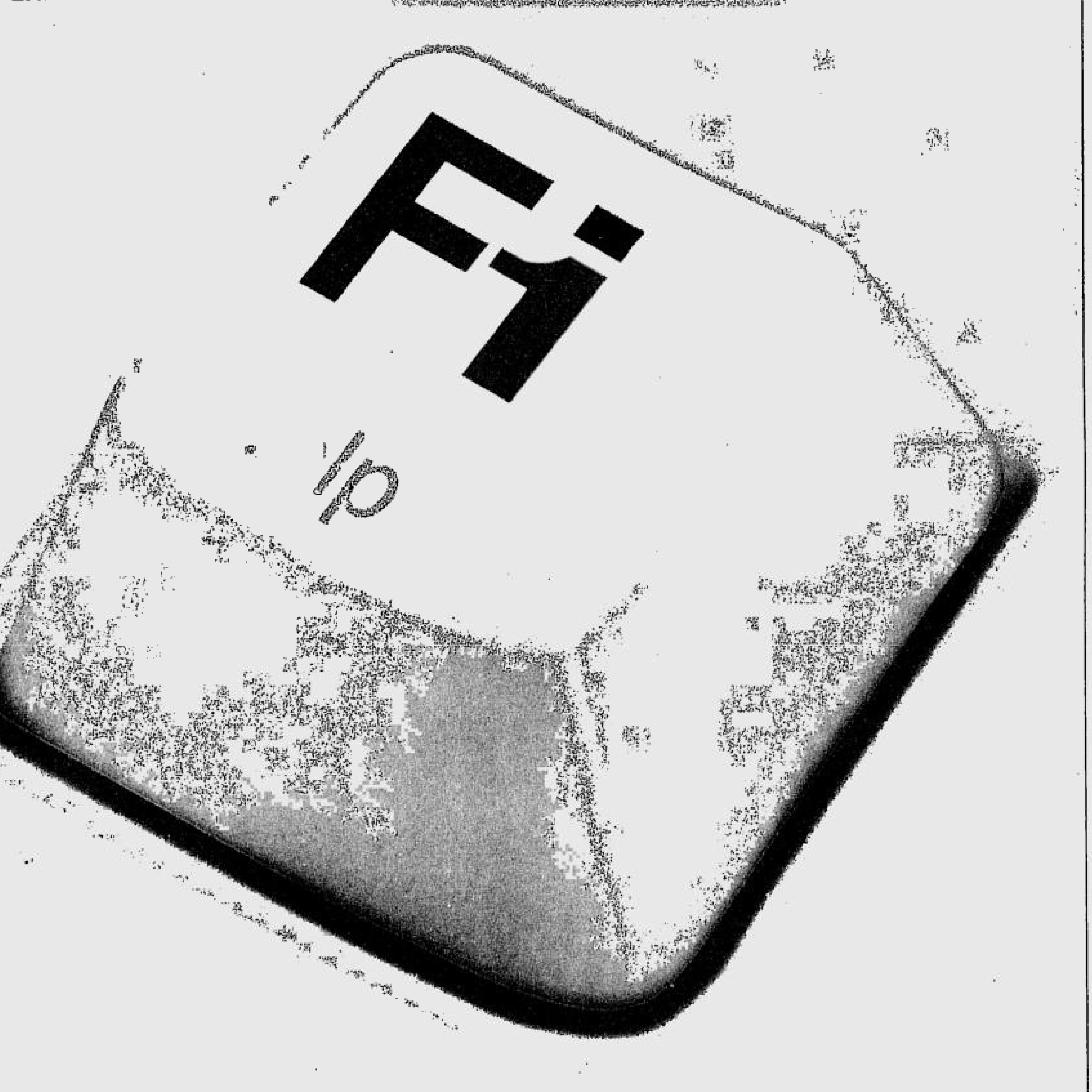

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Banco de Oro income rises 15%

BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF THE BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB: WHAT THE CONVERSION FROM STOCK TO NON-STOCK, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION IS ALL ABOUT

On November 5, 2003, through a paid advertisement in a national newspaper, club member Carlos A. Pedrosa charged that once BCC is converted from a stock corporation to a non-stock corporation, present stockholders will no longer be able to transfer ownership rights but shall become mere members.

What this and other statements of Pedrosa boil down to is a series of charges that the present incumbent BCC board lacks transparency in their actions and that they intend to keep themselves in the board "in perpetuity".

Not one of these charges is true. All are based on wrong information and some are outright malicious lies. Here are the facts:

1. Pedrosa claims the conversion will impair the stockholders' ownership rights and they will become mere members.
Converting BCC from a stock corporation to a non-stock corporation will not take away your proprietary rights as stockholders. You will become proprietary members with full ownership rights, just like members of other golf and country clubs. You will continue to have the right to transfer your proprietary membership.
2. Pedrosa claims that your right to vote will be dependent on the sole discretion of the "Board of Directors".
There is nothing in the proposed conversion that will affect your right to vote. You will continue to have the right to choose your board of directors.

Conclusion:

The planned conversion of BCC from a stock corporation to a non-stock corporation will save costs on certain taxes. It will retain your proprietary rights as stockholders and will keep your right to transfer your proprietary membership. You will maintain your right to select the directors that you want.

The lies being peddled by Mr. Pedrosa and other stockholders are meant to discredit your directors in a deceitful effort to take control of BCC. Your directors seek your full support in the forthcoming Annual Stockholders' Meeting in order to extend the Club's corporate life and meet the objectives of the Club.

Thank you for your continuing trust and confidence in your Board of Directors.

FEDERICO R. AGCAOILI
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By Elena R. Torrijos

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, largely owned by retail magnate Henry Sy, posted a 15-percent increase in profit in the first nine months of the year to P965.1 million, from P842.1 million in the same period last year.

"The growth in income is accounted for by a 69-percent increase in the bank's net interest income to P2.78 billion," the bank said in a statement yesterday.

The bank disclosed that other income declined by 5 percent year-on-year to P1.91 billion, although the comparable period last year included a one-time gain from the sale of secondary shares arising from the bank's initial public offering in May 2002. Exclusive of the one-time gain, other income actually increased by 17 percent over year-ago level.

Operating Expenses amounted to P3.39 billion, and was higher by 72 percent from year-ago level. The growth in operating expenses is primarily due to expenses related to the integration and operations of the additional branches acquired from First Ebank, and the consolidation of Banco Santander Phils. Inc. last July 16, the bank said.

For the nine-month period, the bank set aside P466.4 million in loan provisions. The bank's non-performing loan ratio remained one of the lowest in the industry at 7.14 percent.

The bank, the fastest growing bank in the banking sector, said resources as of end-September this year stood at P134 billion, 11 percent or P13.4 billion higher than the end-2002 level. Compared to September 2002, resources were higher by P34.5 billion or 35 percent.

Deposits increased to P97.6 billion while bills payable grew by P4 billion. The deposit level represented an improvement of P24.3 billion or 33 percent over the comparable period last year.

4 firms...

From page B1

ros for a feasibility study that would assess the wind power potential in selected sites in the country.

Perez said that German energy companies had "expressed interest" in possible wind power projects in Ilocos Norte, Mindoro, Aklan, Siquijor and Surigao.

He said the German firms were informed that the Philippine government had identified potential wind power projects representing 500 megawatts of capacity.

Perez said the projects, works on which are expected to be done in more than 10 years, would likely make the country the largest wind power producer in Southeast Asia.

An estimate made by the United States' National Renewable Energy Laboratory indicated that the Philippines had a theoretical maximum wind potential of 76,000 MW.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As Of Nov. 5, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	36,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45.5	46	876,500
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	440
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36.5	37	36.5	37	283,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	270,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	26.5	27	453,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	1,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.94	2	1.94	2	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1670	1670	1670	1670	430
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1365	1365	1365	1365	2,010
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	10,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.73	3,020,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	840	830	835	22,440
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,500,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.043	14,400,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.88	0.88	11,710,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	825	845	820	820	109,460
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.011	0.013	128,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	47,100
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20	19.5	19.75	803,000
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.08	3,038,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	326,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	230,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc. .	3500	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	.5500	0.55	0.55	0.55	500,000
Union Cement Corp.	.9500	0.96	0.95	0.96	1,060,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	9,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	219,700
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	184,500
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	119,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.5	113,676,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	30,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.029	3,100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	6,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	17,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	11,270,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.225	0.185	0.225	8,330,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	270,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	17.75	18	17.75	18	556,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.0775	0.0825	3,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.56	1.58	103,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	1,630,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	1,981,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	15,260,000
Music Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	820,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.12	180,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000
Pryce Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,510,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	770,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.4	160,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	790,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	28	28	28	28	71,800
DMCI Holdings, Inc.- Pref.	775	775	775	775	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	10,358,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.185	2,300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	6,320,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	5,506,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	220,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.2	3,422,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.32	3,950,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	7,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0038	0.0032	0.0038	13,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	500,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	31,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,939,080	67,684,290.00
Comm'l & Ind'l		339,730,500 796,035,170.00
PRO	30,096,000	99,903,020.00
Mining	39,000,000	2,049,800.00
OIL	31,200,000	103,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	441,965,580	965,776,080.00

DISCLOSURES

AYALA Land Inc. will hold an analysts' briefing on its nine-month earnings results on Nov. 10, at 3 p.m.at the Executive Lounge, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

***

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. asked the Board of Investments last July 2 to cancel its BOI registration in connection with its planned Berth No. 6 expansion project. It discontinued the project due to economic conditions and low demand for an additional berth.

***

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. said that the manner and basis of the stable rating assigned to it by Standard and Poor's rested entirely on the rating agency and that it had no part in arriving at the rating.

***

CROWN Equities Inc. was fined P75,000 by the Securities and Exchange Commission for its incomplete second quarter report.

***

FORUM Pacific Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 12 at the Makati Sports Club at 9 a.m. The record date is Nov. 21.

***

SAN Miguel Corp. said its acquisition of Taiwan Tea Corp.'s 100-percent shareholding in TTCV Investment (BVI) Co. Ltd. Was completed on Nov. 4.

***

THE NOMINATION committee of **Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.** is composed of Jose Unson, Gamelin Oczon and Roland Garcia.

***

ZEUS Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 27 at the Penthouse of BA Lepanto Building, Makati City. The record date is Oct. 13. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

November 5, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869414015	1.000000	55.481000
Japan	Yen	0.00794	0.009133	0.506700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461485	1.681000	93.263600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111938	0.128751	7.143200
Switzerland	Franc	0.638805	0.734754	40.764900
Canada	Dollar	0.654384	0.752672	41.759000
Singapore	Dollar	0.49909	0.574053	31.849000
Australia	Dollar	0.609132	0.700624	38.871300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.306261	2.652661	147.172300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231838	0.266660	14.794600
Brunei	Dollar	0.497661	0.572410	31.757900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.02179	0.025063	1.390500
UAE	Dirham	0.236723	0.272279	15.106300
Euro	Euro	1	1.150200	63.814200
Argentina	Peso	0.305057	0.350877	19.467000
Brazil	REAL	0.30463	0.350385	19.439700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134544	0.154753	8.585900
India	Rupee	0.019231	0.022119	1.227200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228824	0.263193	14.602200
Mexico	New Peso	0.079095	0.090975	5.047400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.530616	0.610314	33.860800
South Africa	Rand	0.125729	0.144613	8.023300
Korea	Won	0.000734	0.000844	0.046800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026647	0.029499	1.636600

Fraud to be Filipino

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

LIKE every Filipino who cannot escape to a good life abroad, and it's not just because of something to do with love of country, like I am proud to be a Filipino, because frankly it has everything to do with income, I can also use an extra P100 million or P200 million.

What I am saying is, I want to know if I can still get the money from the famous JDF, dammit.

As those of you who were beset by loads of text messages know, the JDF is the "judicial development fund," which amounts to...well, actually, nobody knows.

The JDF is one of the criteria in the ongoing popularity contest between the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives, featuring Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

A group of young congressmen initiated the impeachment of Davide in the Senate, questioning, among other things, the secrecy beclouding the JDF.

It seemed that Davide refused even just to humor the House, for instance by showing the congressmen how he spent those billions in the JDF.

Aided by a torrent of text messages, Davide lashed back that everything was just lowlife politics. Lost in the media din was a little advice from a priest.

***

WORD now goes around that, before anything else, that group of young congressmen sought the advice of a constitutional expert who also happened to be a priest.

And the advice they got, based on whispers in the House, was a clear OKAY—that they should go for the "expulsion" of anybody in public office who did wrong.

You can appreciate his point, really, if you consider the prevalent frustration over our judicial system, particularly among those in business.

For instance, the going rate for a fortune-altering TRO is down to P30,000. And we don't even know if the money we give to the JDF is helping change any of that.

All of a sudden, however, the priest came out differently in media reports, which made it appear, perhaps naughtily, that he was actually defending Davide.

As he was quoted in media, the priest said that any impeachment was a political issue. He reportedly called on everybody to take sides. Quite safe.

But then the reports forgot to say which side the priest was on, specifically whether pro or anti impeachment. He must have taken a side. It was what he preached.

***

FROM out of nowhere, an audit report from COA got into the hand of certain anti-impeachment congressmen, showing that Davide was actually a living hero.

Under him, for instance, the antis claimed that more money in the JDF went to the court employees than what was required by law.

But then again a congressperson from the north told me that the congressmen could only wonder why the COA report surfaced after the whole thing already blew up.

The congressmen have been pestering the COA for some info on the JDF. They have been told that the COA had never been allowed even just to take a peek at the JDF.

Overnight, in case you did not notice, the COA also became a sensational fighter against all forms of stealing in the government—or even in a private firm like Meralco.

But if the COA was that good in doing its job, I don't know why this country was voted consistently as one of the most graft and corruption ridden countries in the world.

***

AS expected, with barely six months to go until the next national elections, the candidates are already talking about massive electoral fraud.

It is only to be expected because, in any election in this country, it is a standard practice to blame one's loss on "massive electoral fraud."

It takes a Filipino candidate to be a victim of massive electoral fraud, always, when he or she loses in the elections. What's that - fraud to be Filipino?

Nobody ever loses fair and square, and if we believe all the losers in all the past elections, none of our electoral contests was ever resolved by the electorate themselves. They were all marred by massive cheating.

It was the surest way for the animosity between and among the contending parties to continue even after the elections, even years after, long after votes were counted.

That, I think, is the main reason behind what we often talk about today - political instability. It is not just about coups and stealing. The politico must learn to become a good sport.

***

NOWADAYS we hear a lot about the so-called ACM of the Comelec, the "automated counting machines," which it is using for 2004.

Some groups which are aligned with a certain presidential candidate are already conditioning us about the massive cheating due to the ACM.

For if the ACM cannot do the job of giving us credible elections next year, whatever happens, cheating or no cheating, we are leading to big-time chaos.

As we have seen in the past few years, political chaos can always offer another chance to take control of the country, whether by hook or by crook.

And so I did a little checking around. Did the Comelec only waste money for the ACM system? Its critics said that the machines were never proven to be working.

***

IT turned out the DOST itself, the Department of Science and Technology, did some rigid testing of all—again, ALL—the 450 or so machines, one by one.

And the DOST concluded that it had no doubt that all the machines, perhaps except one, can perform the task at 100 percent rate of accuracy.

But then again, the critics lashed at the conclusion of the DOST, saying that the machines would work, only if the voters would mark the ballots perfectly.

Indeed, according to the Comelec contractor for the machines, a consortium called Mega Pacific, the voters will do their part and "shade" the ballots properly.

What is the big deal here? It applies to every computer-aided checking system—garbage in, garbage out.

It is all too simple—the voters mark the special ballots for the counting machines properly. I mean, come on, how hard is that to do, anyway?

***

MOREOVER, the DOST found out that the counting machines are 100 percent accurate, provided that they are fed the ballots correctly, meaning right side facing right, etc.

That's why the Comelec must field trained personnel to man the counting machines, which to me is nothing but just a precaution against stupidity.

Really, is it possible that the Comelec election people could be so stupid, they would feed the ballots into the machines inverted?

Still, the counting system has an added safety feature, say, against Comelec people's accidentally feeding ballots into the machine the wrong way.

The software in the machine should reject such ballots, and the Comelec people should try again—this time accurately. Even my dog can do that, I guess.

***

CERTAIN groups which want to have a part in the counting, for whatever reason, also pointed out that only nine of the counting machines passed the DOST screening.

From what I gathered, only nine out of the 450 or so machines, failed the harsh testing conducted by the DOST.

As a technical guy from the DOST explained it, the failure of the machines had something to do with science.

You see, those nine machines were stored in a cold air-conditioned room for sometime before they were brought out for the testing.

It was, for the machines, like coming out of the freezer and going straight into the sauna. Well, even robots are affected by the temperature.

Even the television crew which covered the testing was affected by the sudden change in temperature. They got out of the room to remove the condensation on their cameras.

La Suerte workers appeal to DoF

By Michelle V. Remo

EMPLOYEES of La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory have asked the Department of Finance to defer the implementation of the new excise taxes on cigarettes for fear that it would force the company to close down.

La Suerte's workers' union met with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro L. Camacho last Monday and asked him to stop the Bureau of Internal Revenue from implementing Revenue Regulation No. 22-2003 until Congress passes a more acceptable bill realigning so-called "sin" taxes.

Ester Manangan, president of the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa La Suerte, said La Suerte has had irregular work operation since Sept. 24 due to uncertainties posed by the excise tax that would raise the selling prices of La Suerte's cigarettes.

Manangan explained that La Suerte was hesitant to produce at its normal level because it could not decide on the proper pricing.

She said La Suerte currently produces only 100 cases of cigarette packs per day and operates two or three days a week. This is a significant decline from the usual daily production of 1,000 to 2,000 cases of cigarette packs, resulting in lower take-home pay for La Suerte's employees.

La Suerte added that La Suerte's closure would adversely affect the income of tobacco farmers.

Warehouse supervisor Danilo Hernandez said the estimated 45,000 tobacco farmers from Ilocos could lose the bulk of their income because La Suerte buys at least half of their tobacco production.

"Closure of La Suerte will affect not only the company employees but also the farmers because only La Suerte get their supply from local farmers. A lot of manufacturers get their supply of tobacco from China," said Hernandez.

Manangan said RR No. 22-2203 was unfair because only cigar brands introduced in the market after 1997 wpuld be covered by the new taxes.

The new tax rates would increase the price of each pack of Memphis and Astro brands from a range of P7.40 to P7.60, to between P12.50 and P13.

Manangan said the realigned prices would make Memphis and Astro brands much more expensive compared to other local brands, most of which cost around P9 per pack.

NSC creditors to start talks with India's Ispat

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CREDITOR-banks of National Steel Corp. approved on Tuesday a 90-day period to hammer out a deal with Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd., a unit of Indian conglomerate Ispat, on the sale of what was once the country's largest steel mill.

In an interview yesterday, NSC liquidator Danilo Concepcion said that the banks had closed the doors on any other parties keen on NSC and would instead negotiate exclusively with GIHL, which had submitted the better bid during a recent bidding for the steel mill's assets.

Concepcion said that during the creditors' meeting last Tuesday, majority of the banks reported that their respective boards had approved the exclusive negotiation with GIHL.

"No party would want to negotiate except on an exclusive basis," Concepcion said. "However, it doesn't necessarily follow that the banks and the bidder would arrive at a final agreement."

He said that while there was a 90-day exclusivity period, it was possible that a deal could be sealed before that.

GIHL had edged out rival bidder LMN Group, which is likewise affiliated with the Mittal family which owns Indian conglomerate Ispat, during a recent bidding.

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF SPI TECHNOLOGIES INC.

(As of Record Date August 22, 2003)

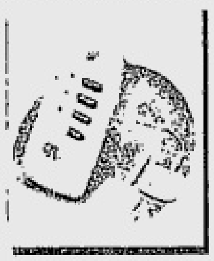
In relation to the declaration by SPI Technologies Inc. ("SPI") of property dividends payable to all registered stockholders of SPI as of August 22, 2003, please be informed that:

> SPI has extended the deadline for the remittance of payments for the Taxes and Costs arising from or incident to the Property Dividend distribution from October 31, 2003 to NOVEMBER 14, 2003.

For any queries, please get in touch with any of the following:

Ms. Leny Salumbre
Investor Relations Manager
Tel. No.: (632) 855-8670

Atty. Christian L. de Jesus
Assistant Corporate Secretary
Tel. No.: (632) 888-0999



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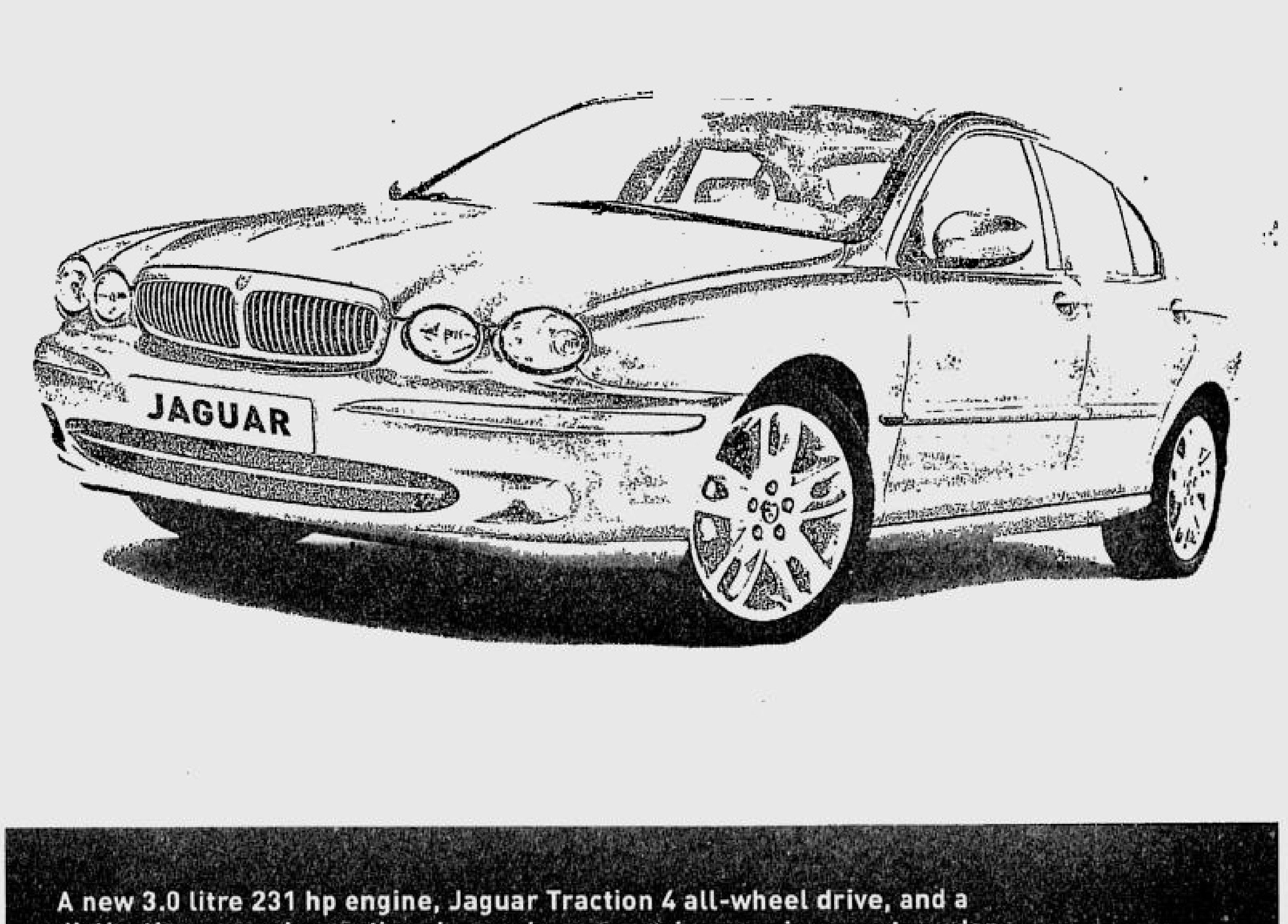

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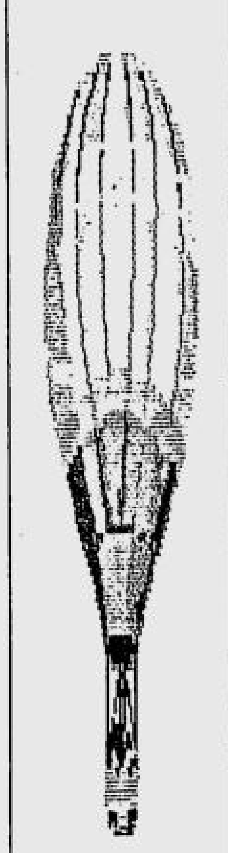

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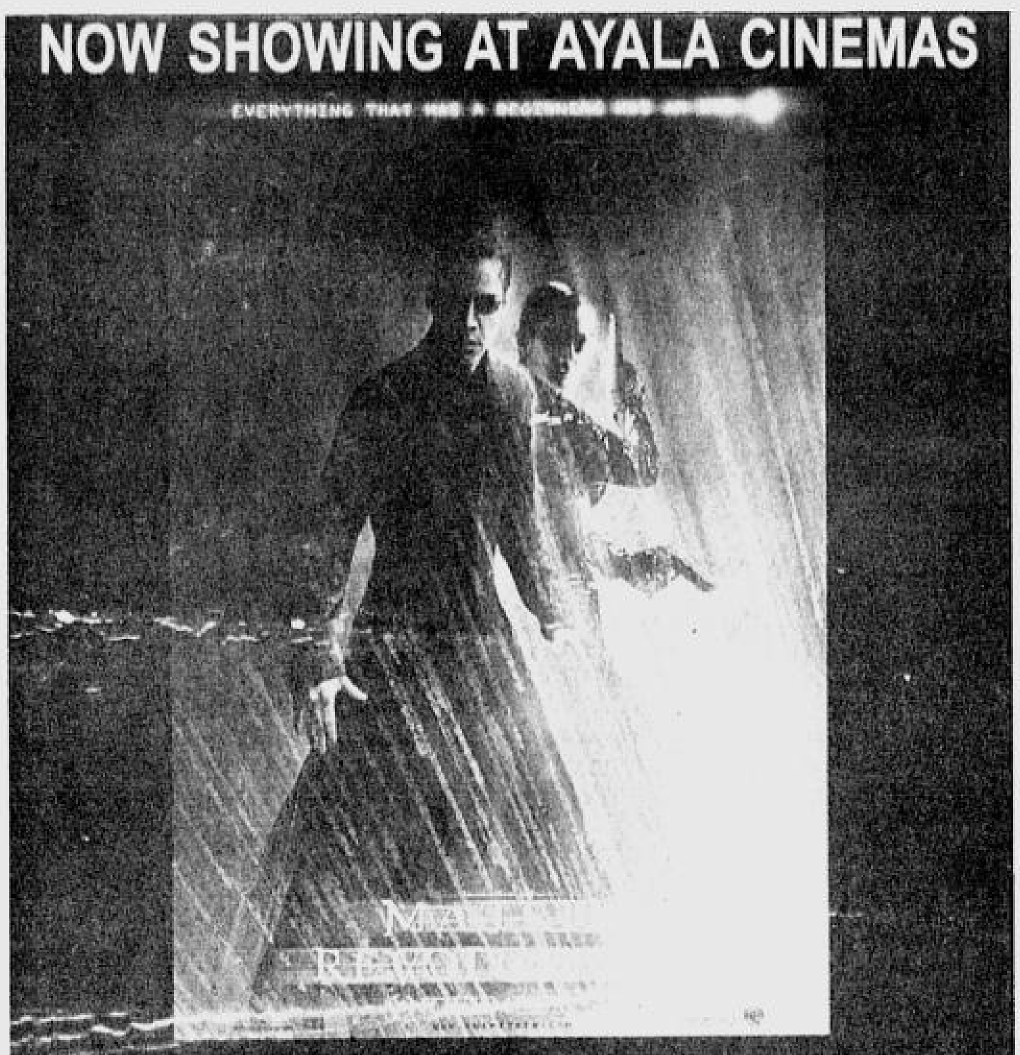

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Cinema 1 (THX) - 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40
Cinema 3 - 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20
Cinema 4 - 12:25, 3:10, 5:55, 8:40

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 6 - 11:45, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:45
Cinema 5 - 11:15, 1:25, 3:55, 6:25, 9:15

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 12:40, 3:25, 6:10, 8:55

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
Cinema 2 - 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 (THX) - 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45
Cinema 2 (THX) - 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00
Cinema 3 - 2:55, 5:45, 8:35, 11:25
Cinema 4 - 11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
Cinema 5 - 4:35, 7:25, 10:15

GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 - 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
Cinema 2 - 11:35, 2:25, 5:15, 8:05, 10:55
Cinema 3 (THX) - 12:05, 2:55, 5:45, 8:35, 11:25
Cinema 5 - 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45
Cinema 6 - 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00

Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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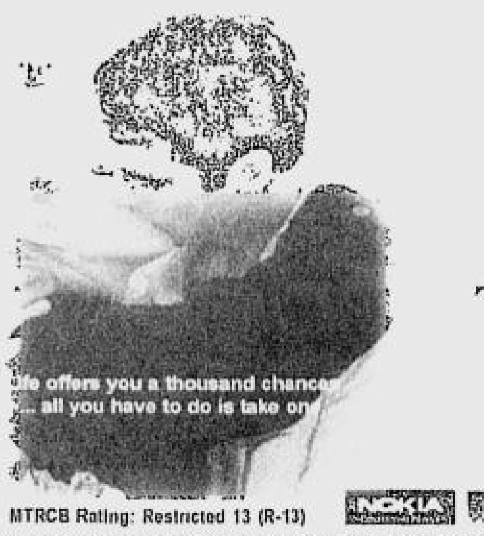

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	ArtFilm 1 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12:05, 2:55, 5:45, 11:25	THX 1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00	2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 12:05, 2:55, 5:45, 8:35, 11:25	Onstage REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29; 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45	3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED	4 THE RUNDOWN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50	4 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:55, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:15	5 UPTOWN GIRLS
	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS			
	7 UPTOWN GIRLS			

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5 GOLD (DOLBY-EX)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
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3

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(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 778-74-21

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	LIBERATED
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	LIBERATED
6	MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 (DTS)	IDENTITY
8 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
9 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781

1	LIBERATED
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5	MAPUPULANG LABI
6 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN
8	BELPHEGOR
9	KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	LIBERATED
2 (SDDS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN
4 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIOS
5	THE SPY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	LIBERATED
3 (DTS)	THE POSSESSED
4	MAPUPULANG LABI
5 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIOS

Universal
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1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

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Jennet	RESERVE

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tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MMATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	LIBERATED
4	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	THE SPY
3	RESERVE
4	MY FIRST ROMANCE
5	LIBERATED

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	LIBERATED
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUNDOWN
4 (SDDS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6	DARK WATER
7	THE SPY

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	LIBERATED
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 (DTS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	LIBERATED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	INNERSENSES
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 (DTS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	UTANG NG AMA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	LIBERATED
3 (DTS)	THE POSSESSED
4	MAPUPULANG LABI

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	LIBERATED
5	SUCKERS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	LIBERATED
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	LIBERATED

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	MAPUPULANG LABI
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DTS)	THE RUNDOWN
4 (DOLBY)	MY FIRST ROMANCE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MAPUPULANG LABI
2	MY FIRST ROMANCE
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	MAPUPULANG LABI
3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4	MR BONES

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DTS-ES)	THE RUNDOWN
4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Cine Neno Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-8121

1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 (DOLBY)	THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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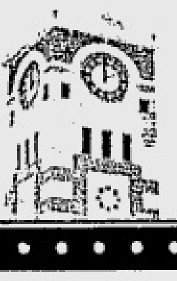

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1 THE RUNDOWN
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 POSSESSED
6 IDENTITY
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 UNDERWORLD
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
6 MAPUPULANG LABI
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY BACOOR
4173665

1 INNER SENSES
2 THE PHONE
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE
7 BELPHEGOR
8 THE RUNDOWN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7626915

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 LIBERATED
5 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
6 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8394575

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 LIBERATED

SM BICUTAN
7763915

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 LIBERATED
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 IDENTITY
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 THE PHONE
7 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
8 UNDERWORLD
9 LIBERATED
10 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

SM SOUTHMALL
8066668

1 POSSESSED
2 THE PHONE
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 UPTOWN GIRLS
7 MY FIRST ROMANCE
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
9 IDENTITY
10 LIBERATED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9356749

1 POSSESSED
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 BELPHEGOR
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 THE RUNDOWN
8 LIBERATED
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 IDENTITY
11 UNDERWORLD
12 THE PHONE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976996

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 INNER SENSES
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 UNDERWORLD
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7106907-60

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM MEGAMALL
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1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6396000
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 THE PHONE
6 IDENTITY
7 THE SPY
8 UNDERWORLD
9 LIBERATED
10 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11 MY FIRST ROMANCE
12 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 PILYA
2 RESERVED
3 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE
5 UNDERWORLD
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 RESERVED
8 VISIBLE SECRET 2

SM CITY MANILA
5230245

1 THE RUNDOWN
2 THE PHONE
3 UPTOWN GIRLS
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
5 IDENTITY
6 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
8 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
9 MY FIRST ROMANCE
10 POSSESSED
11 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
12 LIBERATED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8563884

1 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY FIRST ROMANCE
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

OPENS
Nov. 21

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11:30 FS/12:00 MF/2:45/5:30/8:15/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:15 END

THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/2:05/4:50/7:35/9:50 LFS/10:20 LMF/12:35 END

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1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 THX	4 UPTOWN GIRLS 12:05, 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 9:00
2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:20, 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00	5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	6 MY FIRST ROMANCE 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
7 LIBERATED 10:30, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9 THE SPY 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 IDENTITY 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55	10 THE RUNDOWN 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:55

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Ermita
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536-7809 to 12

1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
2 THE RUNDOWN - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 MY FIRST ROMANCE - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 THE PHONE - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50
6 LIBERATED - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:56, 7:10, 9:40
7 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS - 10:15, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

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1 MY FIRST ROMANCE
2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
5 THE RUNDOWN
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 UPTOWN GIRLS
8 LIBERATED

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 THE SPY
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 MY FIRST ROMANCE
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
7 THE PHONE
8 LIBERATED

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AMERICAN PSYCHO2	1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
LIBERATED	2	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
MY FIRST ROMANCE	3	LIBERATED
VISIBLE SECRET 2	4	INNER SENSES
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	6	SUCKERS

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
MY FIRST ROMANCE	2	UNDERWORLD
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	3	AMERICAN PSYCHO
AMERICAN PSYCHO 2	4	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
BUGBOG SARADO	5	MY FIRST ROMANCE
SUCKERS	6	VISIBLE SECRET

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	1	THE RUNDOWN
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	2	FREAKY FRIDAY
LIBERATED	3	MAPUPULANG LABI
MY FIRST ROMANCE	4	MY FIRST ROMANCE
SUCKERS	5	SUCKERS

Malabon
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1 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
2 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
3 LIBERATED
4 MY FIRST ROMANCE

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OPENS NOV. 12

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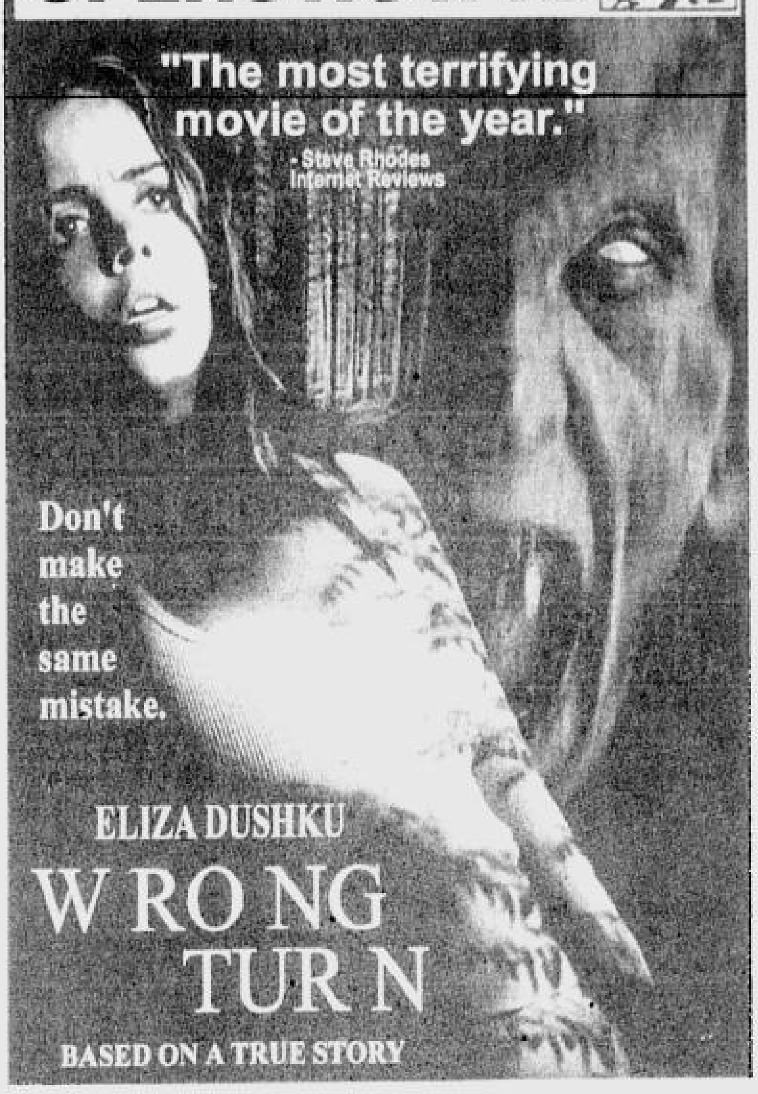
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TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
[illegible]

MUSIC MUSEUM

NOV 7	"SEXY IN THE CITY" PRISCILLA ALMEDA & AUBREY MILES	9:00PM
NOV 11	"RE-LOADED" NYOY VOLANTE & MANNOS	9:00PM

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UPTOWN GIRLS PG13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 1:10, 3;50, 6:30, 9:10	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30	IDENTITY R18 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS PG13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR furn soSTR 8447524

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QUEZON CITY

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

SALRY BUSN OFW 524-3197

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CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

L300 ADV. 741-1356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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Century Properties Management Inc.

EXPORT AND INDUSTRY BANK

BEST PROPERTY DEALS

PUBLIC AUCTION OF ACQUIRED ASSETS

2:00 pm THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20th, 2003
GROUND FLOOR, EXPORT BANK PLAZA, CORNER SEN. GIL PUYAT AVE. (BUENDIA AVE.), CHINO ROCES AVE. (PASONG TAMO AVE.), MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA

ANTIPOLO

Property No. 1 – Lot Only LA: 216 sq.m.
B3/L3 Cascades Subd., Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,015,200

P-No. 2 – Lot Only LA: 649 sq.m.
B5/L17 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,050,300

P-No. 3 – Lot Only LA: 303 sq.m.
B10/L3 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,424,100

P-No. 4 – Lot Only LA: 283 sq.m.
B14/L14 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,330,100

P-No. 5 – Lot Only LA: 219 sq.m.
B14/L13 Cottonwood Heights Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,029,300

P-No. 6 – Lot Only LA: 335 sq.m.
B1/L20 Foliage Hills Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,574,500

P-No. 7 – Lot Only LA: 267 sq.m.
B3/L1 Foliage Hills Subd. Brgy Bayugo
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,254,900

P-No. 8 – Lot Only LA: 252 sq.m.
L2/Psd 04-142064 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 882,000

P-No. 9 – Lot Only LA: 226 sq.m.
B14/L20 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 791,000

P-No. 10 – Lot Only LA: 161 sq.m.
B7/L28 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 563,500

P-No. 11 – Lot Only LA: 191 sq.m.
B7/L39 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 668,500

P-No. 12 – Lot Only LA: 240 sq.m.
B8/L21 Gardens of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 840,000

P-No. 13 – Lot Only LA: 293 sq.m.
B1/L33 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,025,500

P-No. 14 – Lot Only LA: 237 sq.m.
B4/L32 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 829,500

P-No. 15 – Lot Only LA: 200 sq.m.
B1/L36 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 700,000

P-No. 16 – Lot Only LA: 173 sq.m.
B4/L33 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 605,500

P-No. 17 – Lot Only LA: 167 sq.m.
B1/L34 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 584,500

P-No. 18 – Lot Only LA: 186 sq.m.
B9/L10 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 651,000

P-No. 19 – Lot Only LA: 196 sq.m.
B9/L14 Hills of Maia, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 686,000

P-No. 20 – Lot Only LA: 164 sq.m.
B2/L6 Maia Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 574,000

P-No. 21 – Lot Only LA: 168 sq.m.
B2/L8 Maia Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 588,000

P-No. 22 – Lot Only LA: 162 sq.m.
B2/L5 Maia Alta, M. L. Quezon Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 567,000

CALOOCAN

P-No. 23 – Lot Only LA: 87 sq.m.
B6/L9 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 261,000

P-No. 24 – Lot Only LA: 89 sq.m.
B6/L10 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 267,000

P-No. 25 – Lot Only LA: 92 sq.m.
B6/L11 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 276,000

P-No. 26 – Lot Only LA: 169 sq.m.
B7/L21 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 507,000

P-No. 27 – Lot Only LA: 112 sq.m.
B7/L22 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 336,000

P-No. 28 – Lot Only LA: 82 sq.m.
B7/L23 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 246,000

P-No. 29 – Lot Only LA: 129 sq.m.
B7/L24 Grande Vita Subd., Galas Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 387,000

P-No. 30 – Lot Only LA: 166 sq.m.
B2/L25 Residenza 2 Subd., Deparo Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 913,000

CAVITE (BACOOR)

P-No. 31 – Lot Only LA: 304 sq.m.
B6/L1 Lessinia de Citta Italia, Brgy. Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,368,000

P.No. 32 – Lot Only LA: 244 sq.m.
B9/L24 Lessinia de Citta Italia, Brgy Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,098,000

P/No. 33 – Lot Only LA: 163 sq.m.
B1/L24 Roma de Citta Italia, Brgy Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 733,500

P/No. 34 - Lot Only LA: 148 sq.m.
B1/L19 Roma de Citta Italia, Brgy Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 666,000

P/No. 35 – Lot Only LA: 217 sq.m.
B1/L17 Venezia de Citta Italia, Brgy Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 976,500

P-No. 36 – Lot Only LA: 209 sq.m.
B7/L33 Verona de Citta Italia, Brgy Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 940,500

P-No. 37 – Lot Only LA: 139 sq.m.
B7/L34 Verona de Citta Italia, Brgy Mambog 3
Minimum Bid Price: Php 625,500

CAVITE (DASMARINAS)

P-No. 38 Lot Only LA: 605 sq.m.
B11/L10 Island Park Subd., Phase 1, Brgy Palipara
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,932,500

P-No. 39 – Lot Only LA: 340 sq.m.
B1/L9 Island Park Subd., Phase 1, Brgy Paliparan
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,210,000

LAGUNA (SAN PEDRO)

P-No. 40 - Lot Only LA: 219 sq.m.
B11/L1 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,029,300

P-No. 41 - Lot Only LA: 202 sq.m.
B11/L2 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 949,400

P-No. 42 – Lot Only LA: 185 sq.m.
B14/L1 La Marea 1 Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 869,500

P-No. 43 – Lot Only LA: 264 sq.m.
B1/L41 La Marea Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,240,800

P-No. 44 – Lot Only LA: 283 sq.m.
B9/L4 Trails of La Marea Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,330,100

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA)

P-No. 45 – Lot Only LA: 578 sq.m.
B7/L17 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,468,000

P-No. 46 - Lot Only LA: 840 sq.m.
B11/L19 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 5,040,000

P-No. 47 - Lot Only LA: 681 sq.m.
B11/L71 Belle Reve Subd., Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 4,086,000

P-No. 48 – Lot Only LA: 720 sq.m.
L2079-A-3-D-3-C-4 Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 3,600,000

P-No. 49 - Lot Only LA: 216 sq.m.
B16/L9 La Residencia De Santa Rosa, Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,188,000

P-No. 50 - Lot Only LA: 182 sq.m.
B17/L27 La Residencia De Santa Rosa, Brgy. Don Jose
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,001,000

LAS PINAS

P-No. 51 Lot Only LA: 420 sq.m.
B26/L38 Cul De Sac, Lourdes Atienza St., BF Resort Village
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,890,000

MAKATI

P-No. 52 Commercial Condo. FA: 66.40 sq.m.
Unit 2310 Cityland 10 Condominium, H. V. dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,992,000

P-No. 53 – Commercial Condo. FA: 81.28 sq.m.
Unit 2311 Cityland 10 Condominium, H. V. dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,438,400

P-No. 54 - Residential Condo. FA: 69.65 sq.m.
Unit 417 Makati Terraces Condo., Davila St.
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,393,000

PARANAQUE

P-No. 55 - House & Lot LA: 280 sq.m./ FA: 200 sq.m.
No. 22 Canton St., BF Executive Village
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,960,000

QUEZON CITY

P-No. 56 Lot Only LA: 243 sq.m.
B2/L25 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,701,000

P-No. 57 Lot Only LA: 276 sq.m.
B4/L35 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 1,932,000

P-No. 58 Lot Only LA: 306 sq.m.
B1/L1 La Brea Subd., Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,142,000

P-No. 59 – House & Lot LA: 601 sq.m./ FA: 106 sq.m.
No. 47 Pallmall St., East Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: Php 2,404,000

P-No. 60 – Residential Condo. FA: 66.15 sq.m.
Unit 5D Timog Condo. Centre Apts., Panay Ave
Minimum Bid Price: Php 992,250

RIZAL (TAYTAY)

P-No. 61 – Lot Only LA: 96.50 sq.m.
B7A/L20B Palmera Homes 3, Bgy. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: Php 193,000

P-No. 62 – Lot Only LA: 125 sq.m.
B6/L13 Palmera Homes 3, Bgy. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: Php 250,000

RIZAL (TERESA)

P-No. 63 - Lot Only LA: 80 sq.m.
B16/L13 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 240,000

P-No. 64 – Lot Only LA: 63 sq.m.
B16/L14 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000

P-No. 65 - Lot Only LA: 63 sq.m.
B16/L15 La Hacienda Subd
Minimum Bid Price: Php 189,000

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FOR ALL INQUIRIES AND INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS PLEASE CALL MIKE MARIANO AT CPMI ON: (02) 819-7241, MOBILE 0917-531-6120 ATTENDANCE MUST BE CONFIRMED. SHOW MONEY OF PhP 25,000 CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES

ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRAINING 5271590

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the Heirs of spouses Fortunato Ratunil and Corazon S. Balajadia extrajudicially settled their estate per Doc. No. 373, Page No. 75, Book No. 60, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Jaime L. Ballesta of Iligan City (PDI-No.v 6, 13 & 20, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost S2 Lic.# 19199N00 of Dr. Annette Bautista (PDI-Nov. 6, 2003)

LIVE NEAR & ENJOY the PLEASURES of a nearby RESORT for only PhP 660,000 (neg)!

FOR SALE! PRIME 240 SQM. RESIDENTIAL LOT BESIDE GROTTO VISTA (Novaliches). Please call Vicky 5270071 (office hours).

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gen. Pool
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
Fax 63 (44) 456-0730
Tel 63 (44) 456-0731 to 34
Email: dimabaua@castcom.com
Manila Liaison Office
S/F DCIEC Bldg. NIA Cmpd., EDSA,
Quezon City, Philippine 0830
Tel/Fax: 63(2) 921-3863
63(2) 926-7707

November 3, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Security Services of the PCC National Gene Pool and Headquarters for the Year 2004

The date of bidding and pre-bidding conference including the eligibility requirements are detailed as follows:

Date of bidding — **December 12, 2003, 10:00 a.m.**
Place of bidding — PCC National Gene Pool and Hqs. CLSU Cpd., Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

A. **Requirements to be submitted on the date of the bidding**
Envelope 1 — Eligbility Requirements
Envelope 2 — Techical Documents
Envelope 3 — Financial Documents
Envelope 4 — Bid Proposal
Pre-bid conference — **November 28, 2003, 10:00 a.m.**
PCC National Gene Pool and Hqs. CLSU Cpd., Maharlika Highway, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

Issuance of Instructions to Bidders,
Bid Proposal Forms bidding documents — **November 10-14, 2003**

B. **Eligibility Requirements:**

B.1 **Legal Documents (Envelope 1)**
- Mayor's Permit Municipal License (Current)
- DTI/SEC Registration (Current)
- BIR, TIN and VAT Registrations
- Statement that the firm is not blacklisted by any government office, agency or corporation

B.2.1 **Technical Documents (Envelope 2)**
- Track record of previous similar transactions including contact persons and telephone numbers.
- Award or contract related to the services to be procured. The previous sales or contract shall be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the services to be bidded.
- A valid PNP Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Division registration of the security agency shall also be submitted.

B.2.2 **Financial Documents (Envelope 3)**
- Financial Statement stamped "Received" by the BIR for the immediate preceding calendar or fiscal years duly notarized. The working capital (current assets less current liabilities) of the two (2) audited Financial Statements shall be at least equal to the total amount of the approved agency estimate.

C. **Bid Proposal (Envelope 4)**
- Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of cash or manager's/cashier's check from a bank or financial institution.

For further information, please call Engr. Eduardo Dalusong, Procurement Officer at telephone numbers **(044) 4560-731 to 33** or Mr. Rogel M. dela Cuesta at telephone numbers **926-7707 and 921-3863.**

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation and Award shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The PCC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or waive any defect or required formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is advantageous to the government. PCC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does not guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

(PDI - Nov. 6 & 7, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority invites contractors who have completed similar projects costing at least 50% of the proposed contracts and accredited with PCAB to bid for the contracts listed below:

Contract Package/ Location	Approved Budget	PCAB License	Work Description/ Duration
Minalabac Resettlement Project, Brgy. Antipolo Minalabac, Camarines Sur	P9.914 Million	"B"/MA for Irrigation and Flood Control	Land development works including road works, drainage, water and sewerage works

A. Interested contractors are required to secure from the BAC Secretarial Office, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City the list of basic requirements for registration and eligibility. Only NHA registered contractors shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of letter of intent on November 20, 2003.

B. The schedules of the eligibility screening and bidding activities are as follows:
Issuance of Application for Eligibility Forms - November 6-21, 2003
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Req'ts. - November 26, 2003/10:00 a.m.
Issuance of Bid Documents - November 27 - Dec. 5, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference - December 9, 2003
Dropping of Bids/Opening of Bids - December 23, 2003 not later than 10:00 a.m.

C. Eligibility requirement forms may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P200.00 at the NHA-BAC Secretarial Office. The Secretariat may be contacted at Tel. Nos. 929-6016 and 928-4561/65 local 262.

D. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders only upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.

E. Bid security/deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only.

F. The provisions of the IRR of EO 40 shall govern all particulars relative to registration, eligibility screening, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract.

G. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 6 & 13, 2003)

NOTICE OF MERGER

Notice is hereby given that the Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger of IMI REALTY, INC., as the surviving corporation, and SALCEDO SUNVAR REALTY CORP., as the absorbed corporation, have been approved in meetings duly called for the purpose, by majority vote of the respective Board of Directors and by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock of the said corporations. The said Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission immediately after the required publication of this notice has been completed.

This announcement shall serve as notice to all interested parties of the legal effects of the aforesaid merger.

October 28, 2003.

Makati City, Metro Manila

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Corporate Secretary of
IMI Realty, Inc. and
Salcedo Sunvar Realty Corp.

(PDI–Oct. 30, Nov. 6 & 13, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES' RICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE 1st QUARTER OF CY2004

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,700 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the first quarter of Year 2004 with the following specifications:

- Degree of Milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
- Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
- Grade Specifications : Headrice - 90% to 95% (minimum) Broken - 10% to 5% (maximum)
- Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
- Labeling : With front & back markings
- Delivery Terms : Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P1,000.00 per sack per employee
Source of Funding : Operating Expense - Rice Grant

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements	Nov. 06-19, 2003	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Building
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements	Nov. 24, 2003	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00	Nov. 26, 2003	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 27, 2003 2:00 PM	Bidding Room, 6th Flr., SSS Main Building
Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin.		

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers **922-2991** or **920-6401** local 5490/5491.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulation of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technically, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Nov. 6, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

22 October 2003

NOTICE

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) invites all interested suppliers of office supplies and equipment, printers of official forms as well as contractors engaged in the repair of office equipment and motor vehicles to participate in the accreditation to be conducted by the LRA Bids and Awards Committee on Procurement of Supplies, Materials, Equipment and Services (BAC-PSMES).

Interested suppliers/printers/contractors or their authorized representatives shall submit a certified true copy of the following accreditation requirements (original copy to be presented for authentication):

a.) G-EPS registration certificate;
b.) DTI/SEC registration certificate;
c.) Mayor's permit;
d.) Taxpayer's Identification Number;
e.) Sworn statement from the prospective supplier/printer/contractor that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation; and
f.) List of clients for the past two (2) years.

Submission of accreditation requirements shall be on November 07 to December 05, 2003 at BAC-PSMES Secretariat, Lower Ground Floor, LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

BAC-PSMES shall issue, after due verification, a certification of official registration to suppliers, printers and contractors who shall properly comply with and submit all accreditation requirements.

(Sgd.) **RONALD A. ORTILE**
Chairperson
BAC-PSMES

(PDI–Oct. 25, 30 & Nov. 6, 2003)

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The City Government of Bais, Negros Oriental, Philippines will be pre-qualifying consultants for the conduct of a Pre-Investment or Feasibility Study of a Public Market, to be constructed at Barangay I, Bais City.

Interested local consultants may personally request or get by fax (Telefax No. 035-541-5001) the Term of Reference (TOR), at the Office of the Mayor, Bais City, Negros Oriental, Philippines. Please contact Arnie Cua, Private Secretary II.

Pre-qualification of consultants shall be made, not later than 20 days after date of publication.

(Sgd.) **HECTOR C. VILLANUEVA**
City Mayor

(PDI–Nov. 6, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Province of La Union
City of San Fernando
PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Provincial Committee on Bids and Awards invites accredited pharmaceuticals, drug manufacturers, and/or exclusive distributors or suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if pre-qualified, to bid for the supply of drugs, medicines, medical surgical supplies, x-ray films, dental laboratory supplies and reagents for the use of the Provincial Government of La Union.

Protocol to the General Procedures and condilons for the pre-qualifications and the conduct of bids, awards and procurement is available for issuance to prospective bidders at the Provincial Committee on Bids and Awards Secretariat, Office of the Governor, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando (LU) from **November 10 - December 5, 2003.**

Issuance of bid proposal forms shall be made within the period of **December 8 to 11, 2003** upon presentation of the documents specified in the general procedure and upon payment of P300.00 for bid forms for each category.

The Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on **December 12, 2003**, the bidding proper on **January 7, 8, 9, 2004** at 9:00 a.m., both activities to be conducted at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando (LU).

The Provincial Bids and Awards Committee of the Province of La Union reserves the right to waive defect and reject any or all proposals that may be deemed disadvantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR F. ORTEGA**
Provincial Governor/Chairman, Committee On Bids and Awards

(PDI - Nov. 6, 2003)

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JIMMY BONDOC
NYOY VOLANTE w/ MANNOS
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Manila Pavilion Hotel

"Classical Ballads"
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Casino Filipino – Parañaque

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"Gags & Gimmicks"
Featuring
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w/ guests DESSA & CALVIN MILLADO
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"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope."
Psalm 62:6

In Loving Memory

of

LAO WAN KO

Born January 23, 1935
Died November 3, 2003

His bereaved wife **Angela**; children **Armando** & **Sonia**, **Roberto** & **Aileen**, **Susana** & **Philip**, **Edison**, **Noel** & **Martina**, **Arnold**; his grandchildren, brothers, sister, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Resurrection Chapel, San Pablo Cathedral, San Pablo City.

Holy Mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. daily.

Anticipated Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Resurrection Chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, 2003.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at the San Pablo Chinese Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Blessing at the Resurrection Chapel.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me will have life even if they die, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

PRESENTACION TOLENTINO GONDA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 4, 2003 at the age of 81.

Her loving husband **Ben**; children **Lou** & **Joey**, **Boy** & **Clar**, **Oyette** & **Eric**, **Zeny**, **Noel**; her dear grandchildren **Michael**, **Ian**, **Armand** & **Precy**, **John** & **Marybeth**, **Liahna**, friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Paul Parish Church at the corner of Mother Ignacia and Timog Ave., Quezon City.

She will be laid to rest at Loyola Marikina, 7th of November 2003, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

JESUS NARAG VIÑA

of Sampaloc, Manila and Imus, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Creator on the 3rd day of November 2003 at the age of 73.

His bereaved family: children **Edgar** & **Emilie** and **Jessilyn**, grandson **Michael**, brothers and sisters **Ding** & **Upeng**, **Nene Sarne** (†), **Erling** (†), **Ising** & **Ato Silvino** (†), **Alex** & **Chit**, **Didoy** & **Tita**, **Ernie** & **Mina**, and **Vic** & **Jane**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sapinoso Premiere Chapel, Gen. E. Topacio St., Imus, Cavite.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, 08 November 2003 at the Imus Cathedral. Interment will follow immediately at the Angelus Eternal Garden, Imus, Cavite.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life." John 3:16

Our Dearly Beloved

JOSEFA "Pepita" LERMA BANAL

wife of the late Col. Conrado C. Banal, Sr.

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 4, 2003 at the age of 97.

We, the bereaved children & grandchildren: **Conrado, Jr.** (†) & **Jovencia**, Chelo, Conrad III, Joel, May, Kay, Koy, Gina, Dang, Honey; **Jose** (†); **Menchi** & **Jun Padilla**, Edmond, Noel, Gem, & Geng; **Jorge** & **Baby**, Bolet, Joey, Princess, Duchess, Tessa, Bong, Yason, & Jazmin; & **Ricardo** (†) & **Cynthia**, Marisen, Angel, & Ramses; grandchildren-in-law, great grandchildren & other relatives & friends request the pious readers to join us in celebrating her coming home to the Lord.

Her body lies in state at the Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 8, 2003, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, after the 8:30 a.m. mass.

In Loving Memory

of the 7th Death Anniversary of

DIONISIO LOPEZ FALGUI, JR.

of Tabuk, Kalinga who died on Nov. 5, 1996.

Mass will be offered today at 6:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Parish Church, Tabuk, Kalinga.

His loving family, wife AMOR; children WILLIAM and BREN, DONDI and LOU, RICHARD and LIEZL, DIANA and ROCHE and grandchildren DENISE, DIOWI, MOREL, LEXI, DIO IV, DIOLO and ANDIO, ERIN and KAHLI; sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember Fiscal Falgui in their prayers.

HELEN CUA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 3, 2003 at the age of 85.

Her children **James** & **Josie** (†), **Linda** & **Alfonso Ang**, **Benita** & **Alfonso Limketkai**, **William** & **Lily**, **Wilson** & **Milan**; her 19 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 9, 2003 at the Hwa Chong Temple, Malabon departing PAZ at 11:00 a.m.

DR. PRUDENCIO L. TAMAYO

Peacefully joined his Creator on Nov. 4, 2003 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Deng**; his children **Glen** & **Robert Barroquillo**, **Ed** & **Flor de la Cruz**, **Luchi** & **Boy Gueco**; his grandchildren **Roleen** & **Alvin del Rio**, **Margarette** & **Arlan Calingasan**, **Mark Ryan**, **Patrick**, **Dimpey**, **Alvin**, **Oyen**; his great grandchildren **Gabriel** & **Kariya**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Don Bosco Chapel, Pasay Road, Makati.

Interment will be on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2003 at Everest Hill Memorial Park, Susana Heights, San Pedro, Laguna.

OUR MOST LOVING AND CARING

LEONIDAS "MAMA NING" T. NARAG

of Tuguegarao City and Cubao, Quezon City

now peacefully rests in the Grace and bosom of the Lord after 69 years spent in SELFLESS LOVE - a free and sincere gift of herself to make others happy with an assuring "NO PROBLEM."

We, her family, relatives and friends praise and thank God for the gift of a person as uniquely wonderful as she had been.

She now lies in state at Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

We will take her to her final resting place at San Juan Municipal Cemetery on Sunday, November 9, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

EPIFANIA "PANING" V. TOLENTINO

of Cainta, Rizal

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 31, 2003 at the age of 68.

Her body lies in state at # 20 Badminton St., New St. Francis Village, Brgy. San Juan, Cainta, Rizal.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 8, 2003 at the Cainta Catholic Cemetery after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of Light Parish Church.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory of

Lilia Hermoso Suarez

November 11, 1928 - November 7, 2002

Masses offered at:

Saint Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish	6:00 AM
Saint James the Great Parish	6:30 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Divine Word Mission Seminary Christ the King	6:30 AM
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	7:00 AM
Malate Catholic Church, Our Lady of Remedios Parish	6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish	12:30 PM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:15 AM
Santuario de San Antonio Friary	12:15 PM
Mount Carmel Shrine, Quezon City	7:00 AM
Saint Francis de Assisi	7:30 AM
Heart of Jesus and Mary Parish	6:30 AM

Her Family request all readers to remember her in their prayers.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

'Ticketless' movies with Sureseats M-Pass

MYAYALA introduces yet another innovation for moviegoers-the Sureseats Multi-Pass, or M-Pass, the country's first online prepaid movie ticketing service.

Conceived by myAyala, in cooperation with Ayala Theaters Management Inc, M-Pass allows Sureseats members to actually pay for their seats online using their credit card or prepaid cards purchased at Greenbelt 3 cinemas. This way, moviegoers no longer have to wait in line at the theater counter to buy their tickets or pick up their Sureseats reservations 45 minutes ahead of the screening time.

myAyala pioneered the concept of online movie ticket reservations two years ago to the discriminating moviegoing public. All people needed to do was log on to the website Sureseats.com, reserve seats, and show up at the cinemas to pay for the tickets.

Today, Sureseats enjoys close to 30,000 active members and myAyala has since made movie schedule inquiries and ticket reservations available through text messages as well.

With M-Pass, moviegoers can load cash to their Sureseats account and use the credits to pay for their seat reservation, which is reflected in real-time to their M-Pass card. There are no actual tickets. Instead, moviegoers only have to show up at the screening time and swipe their M-Pass card at a Cisco-powered terminal located at the cinema entrances. The machine immediately validates the screening schedule and the number of reserved seats.

myAyala COO Jose Teodoro K. Limcaoco believes that M-Pass will give the public a unique movie-going experience, one that provides fast and convenient access to the cinemas.

Observes Limcaoco: "Filipinos have already embraced prepaid services for cellular phones, the Internet and even the Expressway. Now, Ayala Theaters and Sureseats.com offer the same convenience and efficiency of the prepaid system to movie-going Filipinos."

For now, the Sureseats M-Pass is accepted only at Greenbelt 3 cinemas, where interested patrons can also purchase prepaid cards worth P200 to P2,000.

Meantime, mall patrons can start enjoying a hassle-free movie experience at Greenbelt 3 cinemas with the Sureseats M-Pass. Check out www.sureseats.com for your Sureseats M-Pass.

METROBANK IS THE PROFESSIONAL GROUP'S TRUSTEE

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, was recently appointed trustee of The Professional Group (TPG) Corp, one of the country's leading pre-need companies. Shown during the signing ceremony are (seated from left) TPG's CFO Yolanda Miranda, Metrobank executive VP and trust officer Josefina Sulit, TPG president lawyer Emmanuel Ridad, and Metrobank AVP Josephine Cervero. Also present were (standing from left) Metrobank investment officer Dennis Anthony Elayda, business development officer Virna Liza Alamar, and TPG treasury head Rowena Silvestre.

Banco de Oro Powerteens Club

BANCO de Oro Unibank recently launched its power-packed savings account program for teens, ages 13 to 19 years old.

Aptly named Powerteens Club, the program is designed to heighten the appreciation of the long-term benefits of saving. Furthermore, Powerteens Club aims to encourage prudent spending among teenagers via the wise use of discounts, privileges and other value-added perks attendant to membership in the program. The Club also enhances a sense of belonging among card-carrying Powerteeners.

Upon opening a Powerteens Club savings account with just P2,000 deposit, a member is awarded a Powerteens card - the only savings account card that power-works as an ATM card, a shopping card, and a discount card.

Convenient round-the-clock ATM usage is accepted in all Banco de Oro, Expressnet and Megalink ATM networks nationwide.

Parents may transfer funds for school allowance to their card-carrying Powerteeners through internet, mobile or land phones, or through deposits at any Banco de Oro branch.

These channels will provide the convenience for parents in ensuring that their children will get their allowances on time. The card will also come in convenient and handy for parents and their children in case there will be a need for emergency cash. Going to the branches to withdraw and deposit cash will just be one of the many alternatives for the family.

A club member needs only to flash the Powerteens Card to enjoy discounts and freebies at participating establishments.

The Powerteens Club savings account program for teenagers is another innovative, market friendly product designed and backed by the resources of Banco de Oro Universal Bank - the financial service arm of the SM Group of Companies.

KC SPEARHEADS DRIVE TO PROMOTE LITERACY AMONG CHILDREN

KC Concepcion has taken up as her advocacy the promotion of literacy among underprivileged youth and children. Deploring the low literacy levels prevalent in today's younger generation, KC together with Chalk editor Romina Urra-Gonzales and award winning children's book author Tin Canon did a reading at the Teahouse Preschool in Makati. The event is one of the year-long read-aloud activities for children put together by Bagong Kulturang Pinoy (BKP) - Aklatan ng Bayan in cooperation with 96.3 Wrock and Soroptomist International of Alabang. BKP is a foundation formed by a group of Massachussets-based Filipinos. It set up its Philippine chapter in 2002. BKP is currently supporting 34 mini-libraries in disadvantage communities nationwide. It is committed to let today's youth rediscover the love of reading.

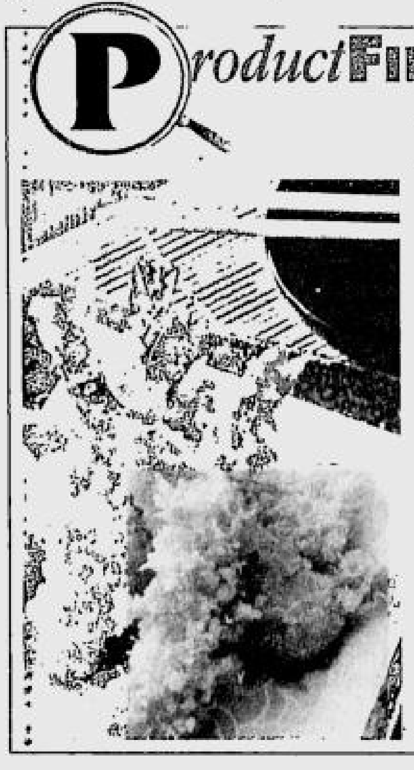
JRU LAUNCHES PROFESSIONAL CHAIR IN MARKETING

Jose Rizal recently launched the Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. Professional Chair in Marketing at the university auditorium in Mandaluyong City. The Chair is another first for the university and one that embodies its ideals as one of the pioneering institutions of learning in the country. Shown after the awarding ceremonies are from left: JRU president emeritus lawyer Jose Baltazar, professional chair and donor Dr. Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., JRU president Dr. Vincent Fabella, Professional Chair Holder professor Josiah Go and JRU's chair of the board of trustees Dr. Armand Fabella.

EEZEE LINKS AND MOBY HOTDOG LAUNCHED

San Miguel Purefoods Co recently launched the latest innovation in meet processing with its Purefoods Eezee Links and Moby Hotdog. Unlike the caned meat, Eezee Links come in plastic casing with double clip tube to lock in freshness. Meanwhile, Moby Hotdog was also reformulated, with bigger and tastier hotdogs, to cater to the palate of the hip teen market. Photo shows Moby Hotdog sampled around during its launch.

ProductFILES



The perfect ebi tempura

EBI OR shrimp tempura has been entrenched in the hearts of Filipinos as a favorite Japanese dish. And because of this, they have developed a more discriminating taste and higher standards for their tempura. These standards are what Teriyaki Boy has met, if not exceeded, with their perfect ebi tempura. Teriyaki Boy's ebi tempura is available in the 3 piece personal size for only P130, the 5 piece regular size for only P200, and now the 8 piece family size for only 300. Teriyaki Boy has branches in Madison Square Greenhills, Tomas Morato QC, Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, and soon to open at the 3rd level Chef's Ave. Festival Mall Alabang and the 2nd level SM Pines, Baguio City.

Clips

CII sponsors Floriculture Congress

THE COMMUNITY Innovations Inc (CII) the Ayala Land subsidiary which offers The Columns Ayala Avenue residential condominium project, sponsors the 8th Philippine Floriculture Congress which is organized by the Federation of Cutflower and Ornamental Plant Growers of the Philippines Inc. It will be on Nov. 6 to 8 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management in Quezon City and features a Commercial and Trade Exhibit from Nov. 7 to 17 at the Quezon City Hall Orchidarium Park. For inquiries, call 928-6189 (ask for Cleofe or Cherrie) or the congress secretariat 453-4553, 456-0882, 456-0932 (ask for Len or Meds) and email ace@rubycomm.com

6 Sigma holds seminars

SIX SIGMA Consulting in cooperation with the Management Association of the Phils brings Jim Collins' bestseller, "Good to Great"; a two part series of half-day stand alone morning seminars. Seminars will be at the JVR Professional Development Center located in the fourth floor of Acceed (AIM conference center) in Makati on Nov. 6 and Nov. 13th. The series are also offered in Alabang in cooperation with The Bellevue Manila, a five star hotel located at the Filinvest Corporate City on Nov. 12. Call Six Sigma Consulting at 850-5870 to 71 for details.

Cascada offers promo

THIS month, Cascada (located at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati) is celebrating its first anniversary. To mark the occasion, chef owners Patricia Mesina and Francis Saldana have prepared a special promo. By taking a few minutes to answer the guest satisfaction survey, you not only help ensure better service; you can also earn the chance to win a special seven-course Christmas dinner for four personally prepared by the restaurant's chef-owners. the promo is ongoing until Nov. 6.

Rockwell hooks up with the Hawkers Market

THE POWER Plant Mall brews up a treat for food aficionados as it hosts Hawkers Market on The Plaza Strip. Taking its cue from the street food carnivals of Singapore and Malaysia, Power Plant Mall's Hawkers Market indulges everyone to a slew of mouth watering dining selection perfectly complimented by an al fresco milieu. Live Jazz presented by Monk's Dream will surely spice up the feast and keep the crowd perky way past their bedtime. Catch the Hawkers Market at 6 p.m. every Thursday and Friday at The Plaza Strip starting today.

Anvil Awards extends deadline

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) is still accepting entries for the 39th Anvil Awards. Deadline for submission of entries and nominations will be extended from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, to give interested parties more time to submit their entries. All entries or nominations must be submitted to the Anvil Awards Committee c/o the PRSP Secretariat, Tower II Ground Floor Unit C, Midland Mansions Condominium, 839 Antonio S. Arnaiz Avenue, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For more information you can call telephone numbers 848-02-60 to 61/ telefax number 817-99-75. All PR programs or projects implemented between Nov. 01, 2002 and Oct. 31, 2003 can be entered in the competition.

1st Achievers and Leaders Seminar

BEST-selling author and business leadership guru Francis Kong will show participants how to walk the roadmap to success during the 1st Achievers and Leaders Seminar: Creating a Culture of Personal Excellence on today at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Organized by Salt & Light Ventures Inc, this seminar aims to help executives and potential leaders of companies to discover how to develop a winning attitude even in hard times and to motivate their team develop a culture of excellence in the workplace. For more information, call 813-2732 or 830-2191 and look for Gia.

Team Asia seminar

STRATEGIC marketing and communications firm TeamAsia will conduct a seminar in delivering presentations that produce results today, at RCBC Plaza, Makati City. "Effective Presentations for Decision Makers" emphasizes the difference between merely presenting one's ideas as against actually getting one's point-of-view across to an intended audience.

Club Filipino's 105th anniversary

DE LEON

ROCO

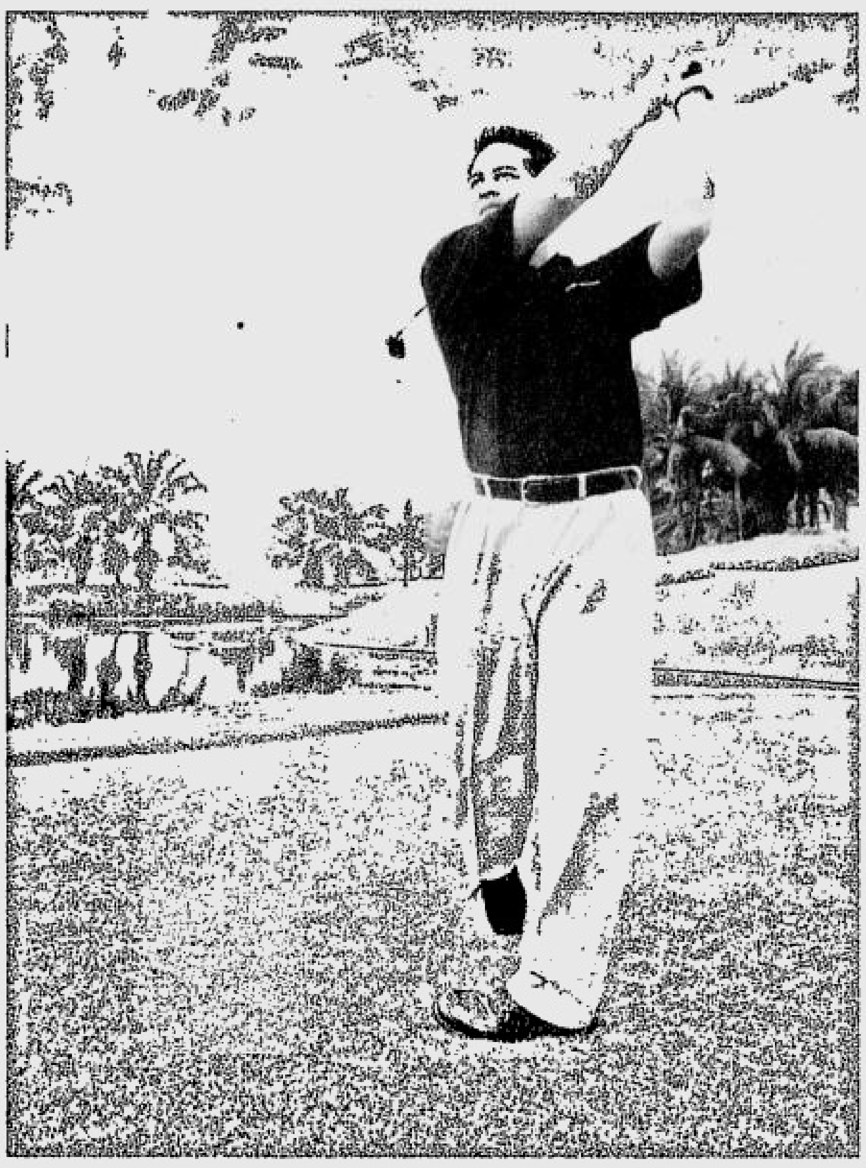
HISTORIC Club Filipino is celebrating its 105th anniversary today. The morning program consists of a flag raising ceremony, flying of balloons and fireworks and a breakfast fellowship. Families of the Club's past presidents who have been elevated to the Hall of Fame are invited as the club's board of directors headed by its president, lawyer Roberto de Leon, give honor to them by renaming the five function rooms of the club in their names. The past 5 presidents are the late Vicente Fernandez, Rafael Roces, Jose Razon, Leoncio Lopez Rizal and Santiago Artiaga. The evening program starts at 8 p.m. with former Senator Raul Roco as its guest of honor and speaker. The traditional Rigodon de Honor will highlight the evening to be participated in by the members of the board of directors and their ladies and some prominent members of the club. A sumptuous dinner will be prepared for the occasion. Music will be rendered by the Lady Valerie Band. Tickets will be sold at P500 each. Members and guests who will attend this momentous occasion are required to be in formal attire: Filipiniana or long gown for ladies and Barong Tagalog or tuxedo for the gentlemen.

The club's board of directors is composed of the following: lawyer Roberto de Leon, president; lawyer George Howard, vice president; Romulo Santos Jr., secretary; Romeo Cabungcal, treasurer and directors Messrs. Antonio Arellano, Albert Castro, Alfonso Sto. Domingo, Carlos Yam and Aurora Perez.

GSM BLUE'S HALLOWEEN PARTY-CONCERT

More than 5,000 youth flocked the Mandaluyong Gym for a different kind of Halloween Party-Concert. The event dubbed as 'Gimmick Sa Mandaluyong' took place last Oct. 29. It was 'Trick or Treat' night, but there were more treats coming from GSM Blue. The Party-Concert started up with explosive performance from Earthrise. It was then followed by the most awaited GSM Blue Halloween Challenge participated by two hard competing teams fulfilling challenge after challenge. The party continued as the 2nd band - Swerve set the stage on fire with their non-stop club music making the party goers move, groove, grind and shout for more. Angels and vampires were saw roaming around the dance floor serving mix drinks from GSM Blue; the most popular of which is the Blue Lagoon. The event was in collaboration with the city of Mandaluyong, Samahan ng mga kabataang nagkakaisa (Samakana) and the ultimate party host, ang ka-tropa ng lahat - GSM Blue and also in part with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Remember the first time?



1st M.V.P. Pasasalamat Golf 2002

And now, gear up for another grand golfing event as we bring together the country's Top Executives for the 2nd M.V.P. Pasasalamat Golf Tournament, November 6, 2003.

Always grand, always memorable... like the first.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Yes, Henry, miracles still happen

THE SITE where the Expedition rolled, slid, slammed and bashed anything it came in contact with.

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Video Grab/Alex P. Loinaz

SOME stories seem so incredible, you still won't believe they're true even if Ripley's told you to "Believe it, or not."

The following story is the stuff of urban legends. Only this time, this urban legend is true.

It was a moist and misty 3 a.m. one day in July 2001 in Tagaytay. Twenty-eight-year-old Ely, an executive from a prominent family, and two of his friends were off-roading his 4x4 Expedition XLT on a mountainside several kilometers away from his dad's rest house.

It was still dark, and Ely had just about finished his off-road drive. His Expedition was parked on a ridge 100 feet up from the main Tagaytay ridge road, its back facing Taal Lake. He opened his window and started backing up, turning to face the trail where they came from.

Deep ravine

Ely was backing up straight to disaster. As the Expedition moved back, the rear tires started slipping backward on the mud. Ely didn't know that behind him was a deep ravine, and he and his companions were slipping helplessly into it backward. Before he knew it, the Expedition was tumbling down the ravine, alternately somersaulting end on end and rolling side to side.

And because Ely wasn't wearing his seatbelt (unlike his two friends who had theirs on), he was thrown off the vehicle at the first 30 meters of the fall.

RESCUERS searching for Ely and his companions

> Certainly, he knows he owes his second lease on life to God 'up there,' and to an Expedition 'down here'

Inside, it was one hell of a roller coaster ride for his two friends.

"When I was thrown out the window, I heard the car crashing through the trees, smashing bam! Bam! Bam! For seconds it rolled, slid, slammed, and bashed anything it came in contact with. So, there I was lying on the slope, my glasses were gone, and it was pitch black. I crawled my way down to where I thought the car was," he recalled.

Ely found his Expedition sitting upright on its two rear wheels—the headlights still on, the hood facing the black sky as if thanking the heavens that it had become motionless, at last.

"After I was thrown off, the car tumbled down another 300 feet," Ely told this writer. Luckily for him, except for minor bruises and a cut above his eyes, Ely walked away from this accident almost unscathed.

All in all, the Expedition plowed through almost 400 feet of grass, small trees and shrubs.

"There were times when the vehicle was airborne for about 25 feet during large gaps in the ravine. Then it slid all the way down, and ended up stuck on a crevice," Ely said. He added, had it not been stuck to the crevice, the vehicle would have fallen another 400 feet down.

Still alive

When Ely peered into the vehicle, he was surprised to see his companions alive, and in relatively fair condition. The friend seated on the back seat was knocked unconscious, and eventually had to be confined in the hospital for two days for further observation and for treatment of cuts and bruises. The other companion, who sat beside Ely at the front, was conscious and strong enough to clamber out of the wreck.

Mangled

Ely described the Expedition as "mangled." "It absorbed all the bashing. The back part of the vehicle looked like an accordion."

One full side of the vehicle was hardly recognizable.

Since it was still dark, and no one saw the accident, Ely and his friends had to wait for sunrise before they could be seen. "Thank God our cell phones were still working and there was a signal down that hill."

Ely called his father, and soon after a rescue team was dispatched to the site. It took a while, though, for the rescuers to locate them, as Ely's party was on a ravine hidden by a 100-foot hill off the main road.

"We were way out," Ely said.

He ended up climbing the 400 feet until the top of the ravine, where rescuers saw him as he waved.

His two companions, too shaken up (literally) by the accident, opted to be lifted out on makeshift stretchers.

The Expedition, too heavy, too mangled and too far down to be pulled out, was chopped up—its parts carried up part by part.

Strong bond

Today, two years later, Ely recounts that the accident made him more religious and thankful of his blessings. Certainly, he knows he owes his second lease on life to God "up there," and to an Expedition "down here."

Because of tax levies on 4x4 vehicles, auto manufacturers reduced their supply of 4x4s. Ford Philippines stopped selling the 4x4 variant of its Expedition in the Philippines sometime after, but Ely saw to it he got another Expedition 4x4, even if it was just secondhand. Even his mother doesn't want any other vehicle for his son.

"Because of that accident I'm not going to buy any other vehicle."

Definitely, such a strong bond between driver and vehicle can only be forged in their darkest hours.

THE EXPEDITION plowed through almost 400 feet of grass, trees and shrubs.

THE BACK part looked like an accordion.

THE MANGLED Expedition absorbed all the bashing.

ONE full side of the vehicle was hardly recognizable.

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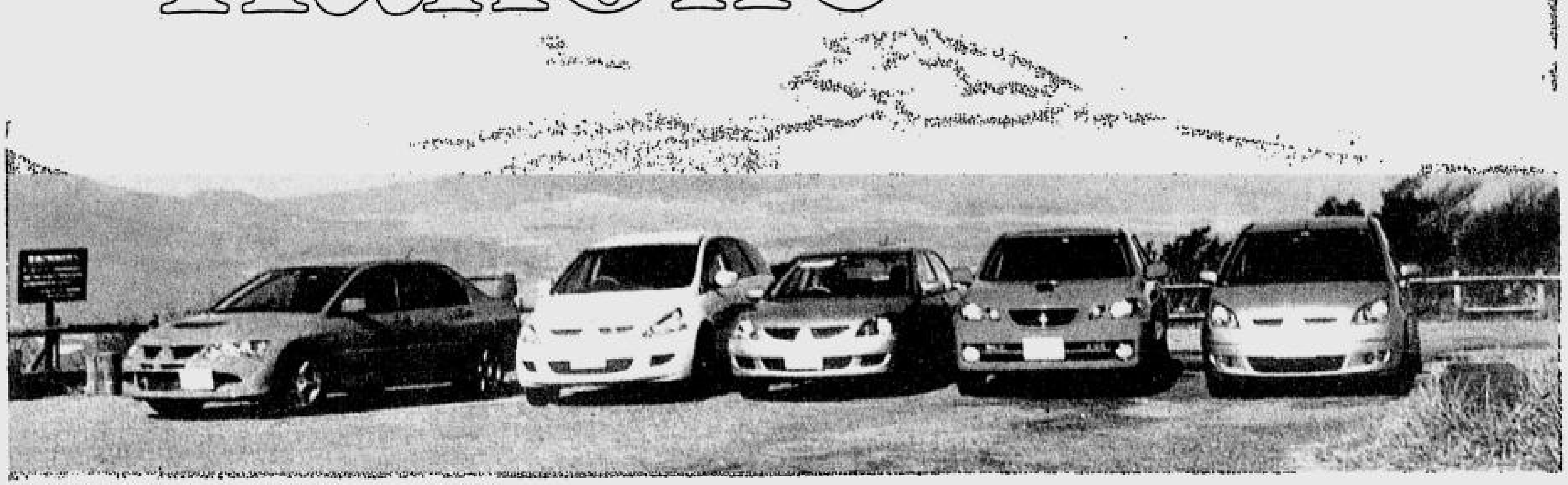
'Running circles' around Hakone



MITSUBISHI'S technological wonders near Mt. Fuji

POSTCARD view of the trek site

HAKONE Teddy Bear store and its owners

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

WHILE everyone who made their living making, and driving cars were doing their routine circles 'round Makuhari Messe for the 2003 edition of the Tokyo Motor Show, delegates of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Inc. were running circles around the Hakone mountain range. Which was just fine, as the trip combined an experience of Hakone's famous hot springs and natural visual wonders with Mitsubishi's own technological wonders.

'Toys' for the big ones

The Mitsubishi team brought along three Lancer Evolution 8 units, Four Airtreks (Outlanders for you, a red unit was even turbocharged), "long" and "short" Pajeros and an assortment of Grandis, Colts and eK Wagon and mini cars (Sport and Classy) and the Lancer Wagon—all in all 20 "toys" for big individuals—to make Hakone our own little playground.

Hakone is part of the Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, and is 100 km from Tokyo.

We were 25 drivers in all—from the motoring press of Thailand and the Philippines. The American motoring press left early and promised not to return for another two years (until the next motor show, that is). Our test-drive window lasted only that day until the morning of the next.

Any indoor venue just couldn't beat the open expanse and twisting passes offered by the Hakone highway. The view of an eternally ice-capped Mount Fuji and Ashinoko Lake (Lake Ashi is the home of the Ashinoko hot springs) made our spirits jump with joy and our test drives a bit more placid than the usual.

For sure, there were more ways to enjoy the sights at Hakone. A cable car ride offers a fantastic postcard view of Lake Ashi—the lake formed in the caldera of Mt. Hakone after the volcano's last eruption 3,000 years ago. A ferry cruise on the lake itself is likewise available, and makes access to lakeshore hotels and small towns convenient.

> The Grandis exhibited gentleness inside and out, with a sports mode affording the driver aggressive driving options when needed

Circuitous route

This Thursday morning drive (outdoor temperature hovering at a cool 16 degrees C), with clear views of the winding trail and thousand-foot gorges, reminded this writer of the circuitous Montecarlo route in Monaco four years ago.

Hakone is dotted with Japanese pampas grass plains and is also a popular trekking destination. For the arts-oriented, there is the Picasso open garden museum (entrance fee is a high-brow 1,500 yen, about P750).

The Hakone mountain road is truly twined. As a result, the average speed limit is 40 kph, highway mirrors are installed every three km, and three out of the five Filipino delegates nearly puked in the dizzying drive up Mt. Hakone in two taxicabs. Or maybe it was the fare that induced the gastric contractions: we estimated the fare at P10,000 for the 45-minute taxi ride from the Odawara train station. And to think we viewed our own taxi drivers as extortionists.

The Mikuni Pass offered a glimpse of just how high the Hakone ridge road was, or how high you and your car would fall should you underestimate a tricky bend.

It turned out that taxi fares weren't the only extravagant prices around. Photographic film (27 shots) sells at a whopping 850 yen (P425). After reluctantly buying seven rolls and complaining the price tag to the storeowner, this writer got a cute stuffed toy as consolation. Well, better a neon-yellow teddy bear than nothing.

A complete circle from the Hakone Prince Hotel through the town—passing by two tollgates, circling Lake Ashi—took each driver about 60 minutes.

This writer had intended to be among the first to drive the Evo 8, but as luck had it—the Evo 8 being on the top of the other journalists' list—the Grandis became the first in the agenda. With navigation map and cell phone provided in each vehicle, we set out.

It turns out that the 40-kph speed limit was more the exception than the rule that day. This writer also observed that there were a lot of big bikers, BMW and Peugeot drivers in Hakone, although she wasn't so sure if this was the norm or just an exception for this occasion.

Gentle inside and out

The Grandis exhibited gentleness inside and out, with a sports mode affording the driver aggressive-driving options when needed.

The Grandis' engine—the familiar Mivec (the same engine technology this writer's Lancer has in her car)—is known for its fuel economy, performance and clean emissions. This time, however, the new third-generation 2.4-liter Mivec is lightweight and compact and generates maximum output of 165 PS and, according to its makers, runs at 11.4 km/liter on 2-wheel-drive models.

The Grandis also boasts of a global positioning system (GPS) that guided the driver using a color-coded map appearing on the screen of the dashboard. What this writer found more useful, however, was the handy road map she held in her hand written in English and with matching pictures to boot.

The Grandis has a luxurious interior exuding a living room feel—with comfy sofa seating and generous legroom.

We liked the field of view at the windshield, and the dashboard—sweeping curved surfaces and all—distributed the controls and gauges functionally. Will the Grandis find its way in the Philippines? That is for the forward thinkers at Mitsubishi to determine, and not for the mythical sardines of Hakone to answer.

OUTLANDER and Pajero

Toyota's PM: A Tokyo Motor Show head turner

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE TOKYO Motor Show ended yesterday (Nov. 5) in Japan's Makuhari Messe at the stately Chiba Prefecture. By the time the curtains had fallen on the world's most applauded Motor Show, millions must have seen the 300 or so models of all shapes and sizes, including concept cars, that have all truly made man as God's engineering marvel beyond equal. For how else could one aptly describe the wonders of science and technology that the Tokyo Motor Show had exhibited once more if not to attribute it to man's lasting legacy of producing boundless pieces of near-miraculous car works.

Yes, the biennial Tokyo Motor Show has become an indescribable race of who gets to cross the finish line first in terms of perfecting the car of the future; no wordsmith can have the power to lace the event with enough adjectives and superlatives to correctly summarize everything that's been shown there.

As I keep telling Toyota Motor Philippines' Danny Isla, my chief host in this yet another Tokyo trip in tandem with the indefatigable Ariel de Jesus (Señor Vince Socco, take a vow to this dude whom you have painstakingly nurtured to become what he is today—a stickler for calmness, if not accuracy), the Tokyo Motor Show has not stopped amazing me with its sheer magnificence and grandeur.

* * *

Just imagine yourself surrounded by a virtual sea of gleaming machines in all their bright splendor and glossy glory—the cars of the future that all at once transport you to a world of virtual fantasy, if not make believe. Who could have thought that tomorrow's car—such as Toyota's PM (Personal Mobility)—would make you enter the car through the front of the vehicle and not on its side that we've been used to for a century or so now?

Oh, yes, the PM, a one-seat wonder, makes you ride a car that has all the ingredients of what a joy ride really is. You have no dashboard; it is all windshield—all glass if you will—for your car's front part which lifts up by pressing a button, remote or otherwise, when you wish to either enter or exit from the car. And it is a vehicle both battery-operated and electric-powered. No gas, man, no gas. Truly, an ecology car friendly to man and his environs as it emits not harmful toxics but only friendly air, if not invisible mists.

And, if you ask me, the PM can pose a great deal of challenge to the comebacking motorcycle, what with the PM's safety features topped by its almost noise-free, if not dirt-free, attraction.

* * *

Two weeks after the Motor Show sojourn, I can't think but reminisce on the hugeness of Toyota's impact on the event. Take the media coverage as an example.

If only to give you a bird's eye view of how Toyota has dramatically shaped the global landscape in terms of showing its respect for media power and influence, Japan's No. 1 automaker has invited close to 400 journalists from 35 countries from six continents. I was one of the lucky invitees from the Philippines. The others invited were from Canada, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, India, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, UK, Greece, Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Australia.

I met a journalist from South Africa during the fellowship night with Toyota's top guns headed by Toyota Motor Corp.'s Fujio Cho in Tokyo's palatial Imperial Hotel and, after we struck it off by talking about the recent Toyota car technology displayed at Makuhari Messe, we strayed into golf. Now you talk about golf and you have a South African with you, the name Ernie Els would surely crop up. When he learned that Els, the No. 3 golfer in the world today, was my pro during one Pro-Am of the world-famed Johnnie Walker Classic in Phuket, Thailand, his jaws dropped. "Oh, my, so I am now talking to a celebrity himself," he said. Hearing that, Danny I., a no-nonsense golfer himself, could only smile in agreement.

Such is the Tokyo Motor Show that it never runs out of surprises.

* * *

In a rather interesting development, Honda has gone hip-hop. It just inked up a deal to present the MTV Brand New, a 30-minute entertainment program with VJ links focusing on fresh and new music videos with in-show contests featuring Honda giveaways. Lasting 13 weeks beginning this month, Honda's Tintin Reyes said: "Entertainment junkies will not only be treated to a fanfare of delectable treats from the music and entertainment scenes, but also chances to win Honda products. Each week, there will be one premier episode followed by three repeat episodes."

MTV is Asia's Most Wanted Music Channel, viewed by more young adults than any other music channel. MTV is the No. 1 music channel, according to AMI-PAX 2001. MTV Networks Asia operates eight 24-hour programming services—MTV China, MTV India, MTV Indonesia, MTV Korea, MTV Mandarin, MTV Philippines, MTV Southeast Asia and MTV Thailand. Including programming blocks in various parts of Asia, MTV has a combined distribution of more than 150 million homes. MTV Networks International reaches more than one quarter of the world's television households.

Said Christopher Steward of MTV Networks Asia: "MTV Networks Asia is delighted to welcome Honda as a partner. The youth market is definitely a huge market to tap into, and MTV is at the forefront of reaching our youth audiences across Asia. Partnering with Honda signifies a new frontier of bridging lifestyle and music to reach an energetic, bold and ever-changing target market, specifically between the ages of 18 and 34."

And from Hiroshi Mikajiri, manager of the Regional Operation Planning Office (Asia & Oceania) of Honda-Japan: "Honda's vision for the 21st century is expressed through our tagline 'The Power of Dreams.' It underscores our leadership in delivering enjoyment and performance through our wide range of high-quality products worldwide. By partnering with MTV, the most powerful youth medium, we aim to effectively communicate this vision to the young people of Asia. Hopefully, Honda could be a part of their lifestyles, and, at most, their dreams."

* * *

Volvo has stepped into sports, too. It will be the presenter of the Mayor's Cup Badminton tournament that opens tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club in Makati, with Makati Mayor Jojo Binay as guest of honor. Hostilities will be from Nov. 10 to 14, starting at 6 p.m., in the event that will be held for the benefit of the Ninoy Aquino Foundation and Bigay Pagmamahal Foundation of Makati. Albert Arcilla of Viking Cars was joined by Lisa Dy in closing the deal with Mayor Binay and Lito Anzures, Binay's chief consultant. Awarding ceremonies are set for Nov. 17.

* * *

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WHAT is a steptronic transmission?—*Warren Acuña of San Miguel, Bulacan*

The steptronic is one version of a dual mode transmission that allows the driver to select either a manual or automatic transmission.

This is a concept that has been used in F1 cars for quite a number of years. It began as the semi-automatic gearbox in the Ferrari racing cars in the late 1980s and from that evolved into the gearbox for the F355 F1 for street use. Alfa Romeo then adapted the technology for its Selespeed transmission and during the 1990s, many other European makers also began offering clutchless gearboxes that allowed manual or automatic shifting.

There is, however, a difference in these clutchless gearboxes in that some are adapted from automatic transmissions while others—like those used in F1 cars—are adapted from manual transmissions. The Porsche and Audi Tiptronic, BMW Steptronic, Toyota E-shift and other variants are all automatics and therefore have hydraulic linkages with torque converters.

The flexibility of a steptronic transmission gives the driver the best of both worlds and allows him to enjoy driving in no matter what condition. If he was stuck in a city crawl he could select automatic and when driving on the highway he could select manual.

Taking the car, its occupants to safest level

By Charles E. Buban

HERE at the Honda Research and Development Center in Tochigi, Japan, complying with instructions would make you think twice, especially if it says drive straight following a moving target, keep speed at a steady 60 kph pace, hit the target but don't step on the brakes, then observe what happens afterward before impact.

Somehow you just have to trust the Honda engineers (and besides the target is a polystyrene hanging at a safe distance from the van it was attached to).

The demonstration actually mimics somebody driving at around 60 kph and for some reason forgot entirely to keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.

"The usual outcome would be disastrous for the vehicle if not for its occupants, so here at Honda R&D Center we developed the world's first Collision Mitigation Brake System (CMS)," announced Honda R&D president Takanobu Ito.

Predicting collisions

The CMS predicts rear-end collisions and assists brake operation to reduce impact on occupants and vehicle damage.

This system determines the likelihood of a collision based on driving conditions, distance to the vehicle ahead, and relative speeds, and uses visual and audio warnings to prompt the driver to take preventative action.

It can also initiate braking to reduce the vehicle's speed.

"This new system is now installed in the new Honda Inspire here in Japan, in combination with the E-Pretensioner, which retracts the seatbelt in anticipation of impact," revealed Ito.

Using radar

The CMS and E-Pretensioner use a millimeter-wave radar to detect vehicles ahead within a range of 100 meters, and then calculate the distance between the vehicles, the relative vehicle speeds, and the anticipated vehicle path to determine the likelihood of a collision.

Before impact, as this reporter has experienced, the car sounded an alarm, a message "BRAKE" appeared on the multi-information display in the instrument panel, and a tactile warning was provided by an automatic tightening of the seatbelt.

"Which is to prompt the driver to take preventative action," Ito added.

Brake assist function

If no sufficient action is done, the system then activates brake assist function that compensates for insufficient brake pedal pressure to reduce the speed of impact, and seatbelt control that increases seatbelt tension to hold the driver more securely in place.

"Honda considers safety to be one of the most crucial issues automakers face, and as such has long been active in the fields of driver safety education, active safety (preventing collisions), and passive safety (minimizing injury in the event of a collision)," Ito explained.

In addition, Honda has been promoting research and development of "Honda Precrash Safety Technologies," which are designed to predict collisions and minimize impacts.

The CMS and the E-Pretensioner represent just the first stage in the practical application of these technologies.

Intelligent car

The new Honda Inspire in Japan represents a new breed of intelligent car and Japan's Vehicle, Road and Traffic Intelligence Society believes with widespread adoption of its intelligent system could halve fatal accidents over 30 years.

The car incorporates many safety technologies including the Honda Intelligent Driver Support (HIDS), which "sees" the road through a tiny camera on the windshield and helps steer the car down the middle of its lane.

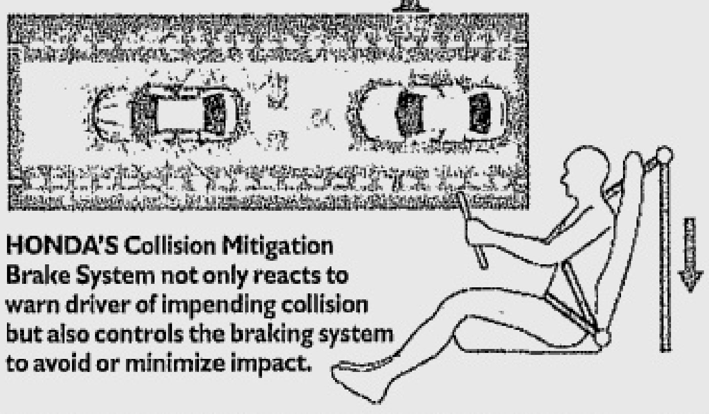
The HIDS incorporates several technologies including the Lane-Keeping Assist System, which identifies the vehicle's lane and applies the appropriate amount of torque to the vehicle's electric power steering to help the driver maintain the vehicle in its lane.

Cruise control system

Another is the Intelligent Highway Cruise Control vehicle speed and distance control system, which assesses driving conditions using data from a millimeter-wave radar unit that measures the distance to the vehicle ahead, along with data from speed and yaw (lane deviation) rate sensors.

In addition to maintaining the vehicle at a set speed, this cruise control system automatically regulates vehicle speed and distance depending on whether or not there is a vehicle in the same lane ahead.

"Honda and the rest of Japanese automakers are leading the global race to make cars smarter, employing cutting-edge technologies like radar and camera provided vision," explained Ito. "The idea here is to make driving much safer but without making the driver feel he is no longer in control of the vehicle."



HONDA'S Collision Mitigation Brake System not only reacts to warn driver of impending collision but also controls the braking system to avoid or minimize impact.

HONDA CR-V: The Comfortable 4x4

Green with envy

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IN AUGUST 2002, I wrote that car manufacturers in the Philippines were green with envy at the phenomenal success of the second-generation Honda CR-V, which Honda Cars Philippines Inc. had cleverly converted into a tax-exempt 4x2 10-seater for a P200,000 retail price slash. Because of its below-P1-million price, the 10-seater CR-V outsold every other car in the market.

Now the people who bought the 10-seater CR-V are probably the ones green with envy, if not a bit resentful. This is because after 18 months of selling the 4x2 10-seater CR-V, Honda unveiled last month the genuine second-generation 5-seater RealTime 4WD CR-V and is advertising it as "The Comfortable 4x4." Those who bought the 10-seater can be forgiven if they envy the ones who had the wisdom and foresight to wait for The Comfortable 4x4.

Emphasis on comfort

Note the emphasis on comfort. Could it be due to a common complaint among many owners of the 10-seater CR-V, that it has an uncomfortable, bouncy ride resembling that of a pickup truck or AUV with leaf springs rear suspension? Although the 10-seater CR-V is equipped with the same suspension system as the 5-seater (toe control strut suspension with stabilizer bar up front and reactive link double wishbone with coil spring at the rear), the 10-seater's was probably adjusted to accommodate 10 passengers, including the driver.

Which means that when the 10-seater CR-V does not have a full complement of 10 passengers, its ride can hardly be described as smooth and comfortable as a quality sedan. It brings to mind a crew cab pickup truck—when there is nothing heavy in the cargo box at the rear, the driver and passengers experience a bucking-horse ride.

Solve the problem

Someone who owns and drives a 10-seater CR-V told me he solves the problem by loading two piedra china at the rear. Then he is sure to have a smooth, comfortable ride. On the other hand, his CR-V is also sure to consume a lot more fuel.

The 5-seater CR-V costs P1,168,000 for the manual transmission (MT) and P1,218,000 for the automatic transmission (AT). Stripped of its tax exemption when the new excise tax law took effect last month, the 10-seater CR-V MT now costs P1.0 million while the AT is priced at P1,063,000. Aside from the same suspension system, the two variants have the same 2.0-liter twin cam VTEC-i engine, the same size wheels (15x6JJ), the same braking system, the same safety equipment (SRS airbags, ABS, electronic brake force distribution and brake assist).

Justified

The 5-seater's higher price (P168,000 more for the MT, P155,000 more for the AT) may be justified not only by RealTime 4WD and a more comfy ride, but also by its vaunted "all the comforts of a luxury sedan" such as full leather seats, front captain seats with armrests and a center

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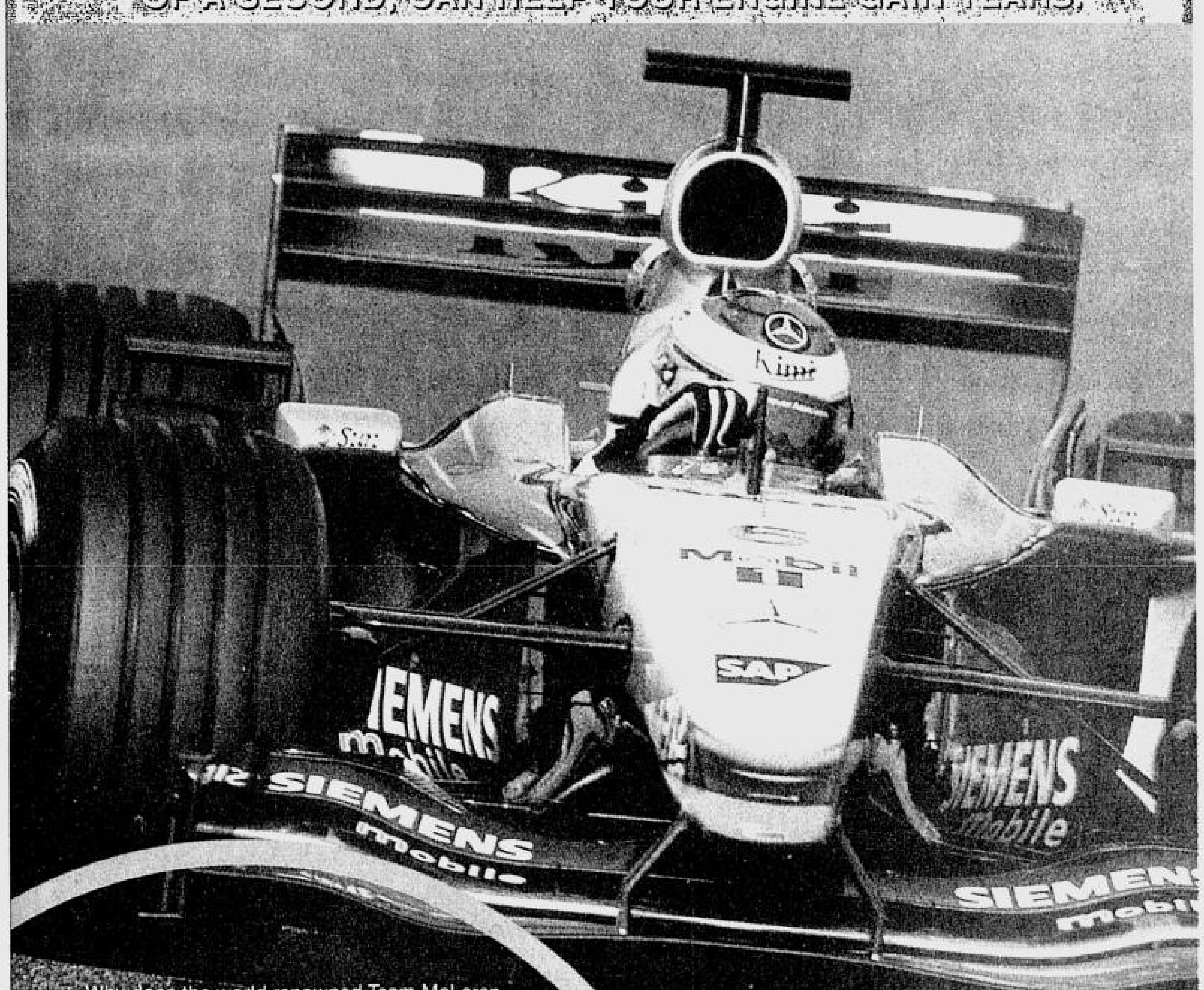

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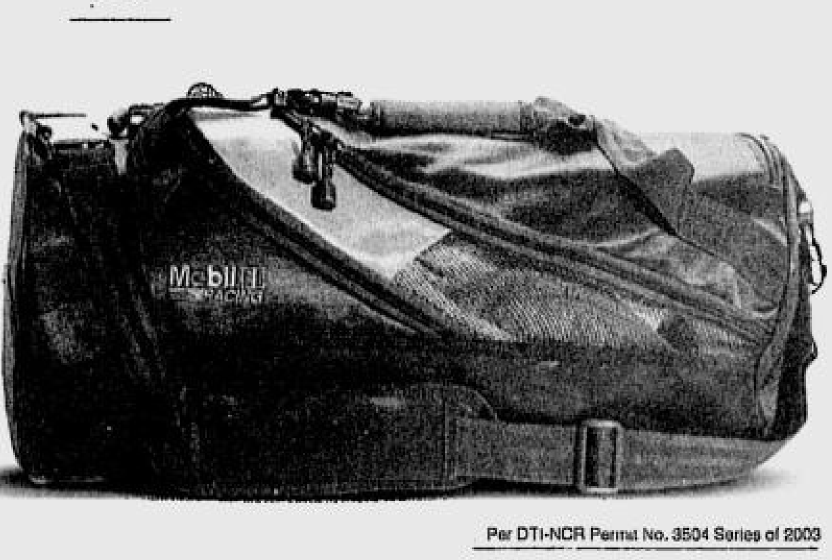

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Designing small cars to endure collision with bigger autos

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

THE ISSUE of what happens when one type of vehicle crashes into another (otherwise known as compatibility) has become a growing safety concern among automakers, particularly with the increasing popularity of sport utility vehicles, pickups and minivans, which sit higher and weigh more than cars.

At the Honda Research and Development Center in Tochigi, Japan, the Japanese automaker announced the development of a new crash-compatible body frame structure that provides greater safety in collisions between vehicles of differing size and weight.

In an accident simulation done at the center's Crash Safety Test Facility, a diminutive Life mini-car is smashed head on against a Legend, a more massive (two-ton-class) passenger vehicle.

Convincing result

The result was convincing as the Life, which features a new crash-compatible body frame structure, demonstrated improved collision energy absorption in the engine as well as protected its passengers from fatal injuries (as shown from the markers installed in the dummies).

"The secret is in the new body design, known as Honda proprietary G-Control (G-Con) collision safety body technology, which uses the engine compartment to efficiently disperse and absorb collision energy during a vehicle-to-vehicle collision," explained Tamiji Sugitomo, senior chief engineer at the Honda R&D Center.

Introduced in 1998, the G-Con underwent improvements to further reduce sudden deceleration on vehicle occupants and help secure cabin space for their survival.

SENIOR chief engineer Sugitomo shows the new body design installed in the new Honda Life mini car.

Front-end frame structure

Honda's new crash-compatible body uses a front-end frame structure that reduces the potential concentrated force of an impact by dispersing and absorbing crash energy over a larger area.

This frame does not easily become misaligned laterally or vertically with the frame of the other vehicle involved in the crash.

In a frontal crash with up to a two-ton-class passenger vehicle, Honda reported the new Life demonstrates improved collision energy absorption by about 50 percent in the engine compartment while reducing the load on the passenger compartment by some 30 percent.

"This means with the G-Con installed in Fit, in both cars the collision deformation of the passenger compartment is reduced, passenger protection is enhanced, and aggressive behavior toward the other vehicle is reduced," added Sugitomo.

Aggressive behavior refers to one-sided increase in damage inflicted due to excessive concentration of the impact load during a collision between vehicles.

First on the all-new Life mini-car

Honda will initially apply the new body design technology on the all-new Life mini-car, which was released in September in Japan.

The new Honda Life features a highly efficient energy-absorbing main frame, a bulkhead (upper frame) that absorbs the upper part of the collision energy, and a lower member that helps prevent misalignment of the frames of the vehicles involved.

Sugutomo said upcoming Honda vehicles to be built on new platforms, will be equipped with this same crash-compatible body design.

CRUMPLED and all, the front part of Life mini car absorbed most of the impact while the passenger area was spared.

Green. . .

From page C3

tray with cupholders in between, wider cabin space and more comfortable elbow room for five passengers. Compared to the 5-seater CR-V's spacious black leather interior, the 10-seater's cabin looks cheap and cramped.

From the outside, you can tell a 5-seater CR-V apart from the 10-seater via the body cladding and the "CR-V 4x4" insignia on the body color-keyed cover of the tailgate-mounted spare tire. In the 5-seater, front fog lamps are standard and the black body cladding is confined to the lower front bumper under the grille and the lower section of the rear bumper. In the 10-seater, the cladding reaches all the way up to midway between the headlights up front and midway up the tailgate in the back.

Pecking order

The arrival of the 5-seater CR-V has created a pecking order for CR-V owners. Those who patiently waited for more than a year to buy The Comfortable 4x4, even at a higher price, can look down their noses at 10-seater CR-V owners as bargain hunters, if not cheapskates.

But this is supposed to be a democratic country and if you were to ask me, when I have a million bucks to spare I would probably buy a 10-seater CR-V instead of The Comfortable 4x4 and just load two piedra china in the back. That is, if Honda has not yet stopped producing the 10-seater by the time I scrape together a million pesos.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If we quit voting—will they all go away?

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Foie gras comes from a goose or a duck that has been fattened for four to five months to produce a fatty liver that melts in your mouth

Cook your goose (liver)

WHAT are the best places to go for goose liver (apart from the more well-known and expensive ones, of course!)? How much and where would the best bargain be? Also, is it available in delis or special grocery stores in Manila? I'm a bit intrigued or fascinated by this food item that I'd really like to try it to [satisfy my] curiosity (or craving). Maybe you have a simple recipe for goose liver that you can share.

JONG

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

The best things in life come at a price, sad to say, and foie gras is never cheap! A specialty of Alsace and Perigord, foie gras, which is French for "fat liver," generally refers to goose liver. It is the enlarged liver of a goose or a duck that has been force-fed, fattened for four to five months and not allowed to move around much. The result

COOK/ D3

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Holiday Baking with Maya Mixes: Nov. 15 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Food for the Gods, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Crema de Fruta, assorted Brownies: Black Forest, Rocky Road; Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf; Brownie Merigue. P700 or present ten box tops of any Maya hotcake or cake mix 500 grams and ten box tops of the smaller packs of hotcake for a FREE CLASS.

Restaurant Operations: Nov. 15 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, and restaurant works, menu presentation of new popular restaurant, proven techniques on profitable service operations with free lunch. P1,500.

7-day Curing Ham: Nov. 15 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chicken Ham, Pata Hamon, Pork Ham. Bonus: Canadian Bacon, Pastrami. P800.

Kakanin: Nov. 22 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Puto, Cuchinta, Puto Bumbong, Cassava Bibingka, Maja Blanca, Sapin Sapin, Salabat. Bonus: Maya Bibingka. P600.

Waitering & Bartending Basics: Nov. 22 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Techniques of Serving, Bussing out, napkin folding and skirting; Types of wine glasses, basic cocktail and wine mixing, etc. P1,500

Catering: Nov. 29 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Technical and legal aspects of operations, costing quantification, portion control, licensing requirements, proper hygiene and sanitation and safety aspects in food preparation, buffet table set-up flow, sourcing, actual preparation of catering dishes such as Morcon, Baked Macaroni, All-Meat Paella, Galantina, 30-minute Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, special fried rice and dessert. P1,500.

Gulaman Delights: Nov. 29 (Sat) 3:30 - 6 p.m. Cathedral Window, Almond Gulaman Taho & Cooler, Buko-Pandan Jello, Fruity Chewy Salad, Coffee Mousse. P350.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON. (Pre-registration required)

Baking I (Basic): Nov. 12-14 or 26-28 (W-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000

Cooking I (Basic): For Messmen, Stewards and Beginners: Nov. 18-21 or Dec. 2-5 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing. Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,500.

Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking): For Career Cooks: Nov. 18-21 or Dec. 2-5 (T-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Coverage: Food hygiene & sanitation, Standard techniques of preparing basic stocks, soups and sauces applicable to 1001 recipes; salads and dressing; main dishes; potato cookery; pasta and rice; techniques of de-boning and filleting fish and chicken; use of herbs and spices to cooking; basic garnish for plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P3,000.

Cake Decorating (Basic): Nov. 22 & 29 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P2,000.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph

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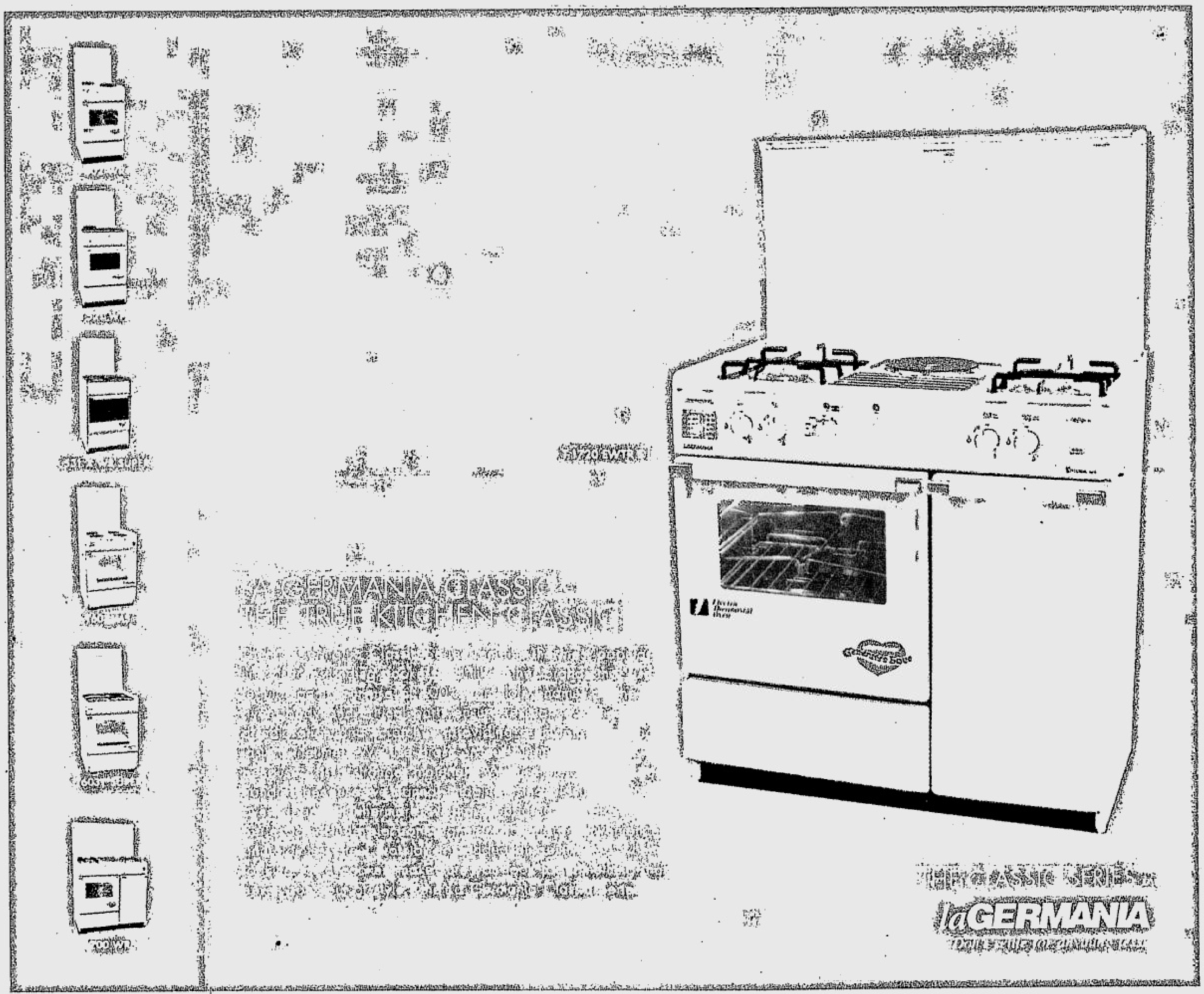

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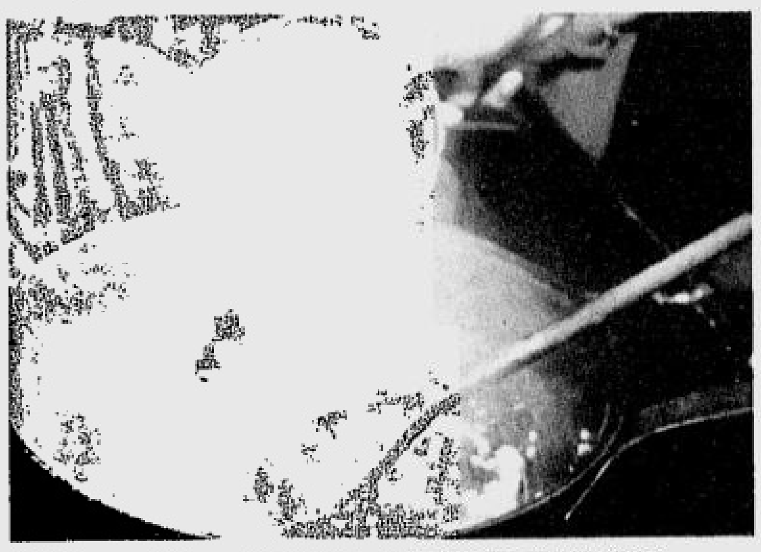
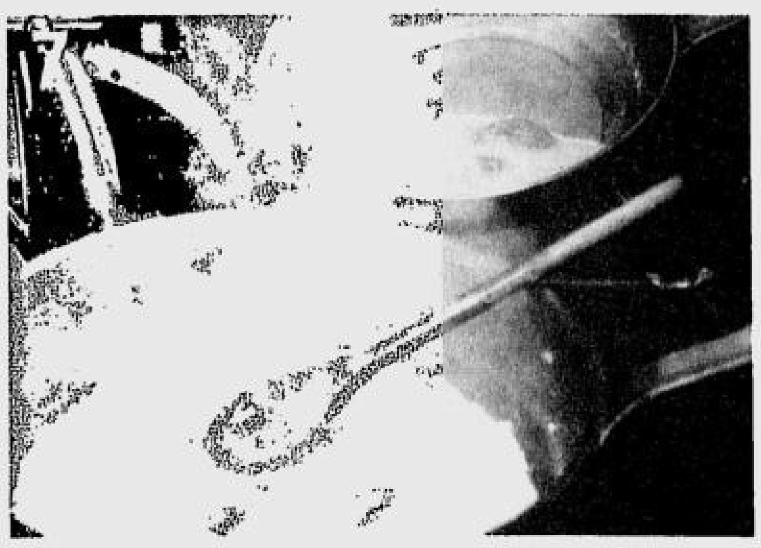


ADD rice and stir gently until the grains become transparent.

GLAZE it with white wine. Add a few threads of saffron.



GRADUALLY add stock. Double the volume of the stock to cover rice. Stir until the rice begins to absorb the stock, adjusting the flame to a lower level. Continue to cook without stirring for 12 to 15 minutes.

Rice for all occasions

Ariel Manuel of Lolo Dad's Café demonstrates the easy way to prepare risotto

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

ITALIANS handle rice like pasta, cooking it al dente and giving it sauces of different flavors. One favorite Italian rice dish is risotto, which is infused with the flavors of broth, butter, cheese, olive oil, cream and wine.

Normally, risotto garnished a la Milanaise or with seafood, chicken liver, etc. can be served as a main course. When only cheese or saffron is added, the dish is served with meat (like veal), eggs, or even fish.

For home cooking, risotto is one of the most difficult recipes to prepare. The rice is always imported from Italy and the dish has to have the consistency of a paella.

Risotto is cooked by stirring the rice constantly under a low fire. Instead of water, fish, chicken or beef stock is added to intensify the flavor.

Traditionally, Italian Arborio rice is used in risotto. Culinary expert Reggie Aspiras said in one of her columns that Arborio rice had a high starch content. The starch is released as you gradually stir in the hot stock, giving the mixture the fine creamy texture that is characteristic of good risotto.

It is not necessary to find substitutes for the ingredients. Arborio is readily available in delis such as Santi's Deli and Gourmand in Alabang and Terry's.

Ariel Manuel, chef de cuisine of Lolo Dad's Café (899 President Quirino Ave., Malate, Manila), demonstrates the easy way to prepare risotto. This recipe, simple but delicious, is one of the sought-after dishes at Lolo Dad's. It has a subtle lobster and saffron flavor.

According to Manuel, like the Italian pasta, risotto can be made in 30 minutes or less with minimum preparation. Both pasta and risotto are well suited to all sorts of occasions, from fancy meal to simply clearing out left over in the refrigerator.

"Making great risotto requires attention to both process and content," says Manuel. "The key to adding the broth is to put a little at a time." And to keep stirring as the rice absorbs the liquid. When the broth is absorbed, add a little more stock. Stir again to cook evenly and prevent the rice from sticking to the bottom of the pan.

The dish is done about 18 or so minutes later when the rice is al dente (cooked through, but still a bit firm in the middle). The stock has to be hot before it is added to the rice. To do this, let the stock simmer before heating the butter and oil.

Risotto, says Manuel, should be eaten right off the pot. "Serve immediately or the rice will continue to cook and turn to mush."

Yield: 3 servings

Ingredients:

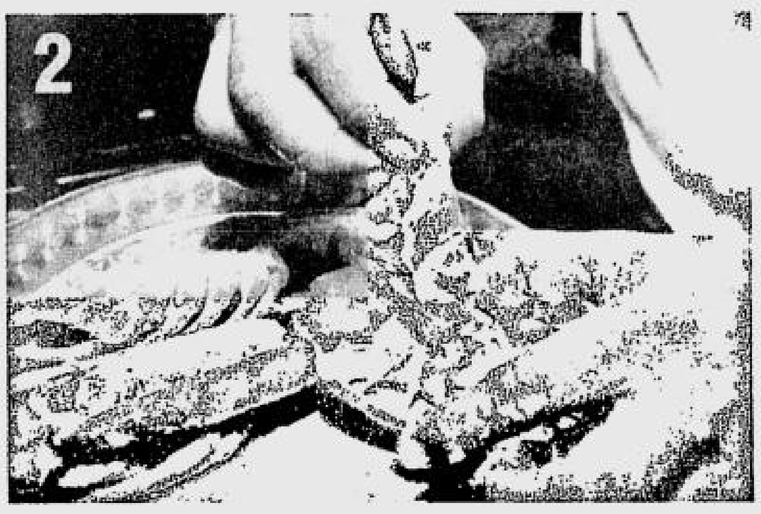
250 g Arborio or Vialone Rice
1 c chopped white onion
5 tbsp olive oil
½ c white wine
1 whole lobster (medium size)
few threads of saffron (or kasubha)
10 g freshly diced unsalted butter
15 g grated Parmesan cheese
fish stock
salt and pepper to taste

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

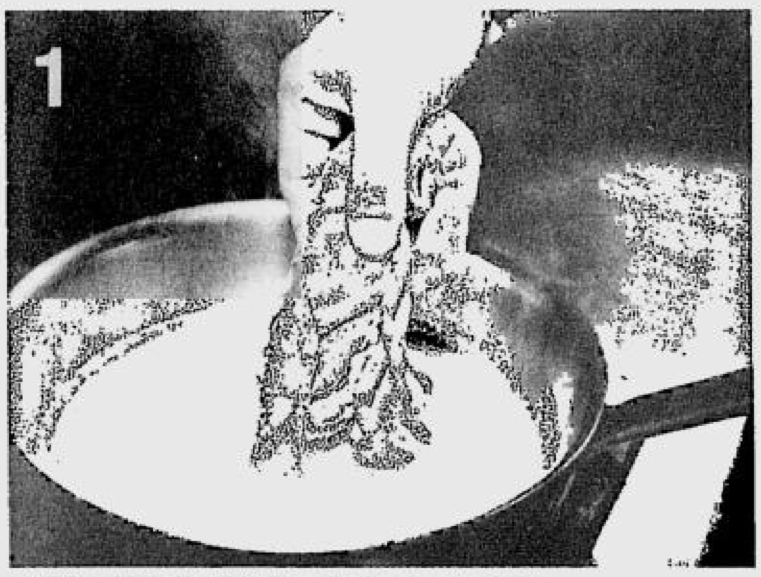
STEP BY STEP

SAUTÉ onion in olive oil without browning it.

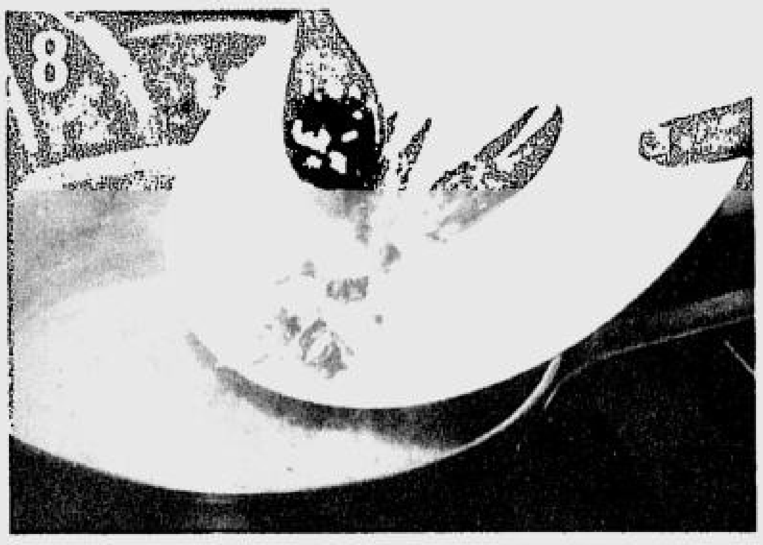
RETURN the shell in the stock for additional flavor.



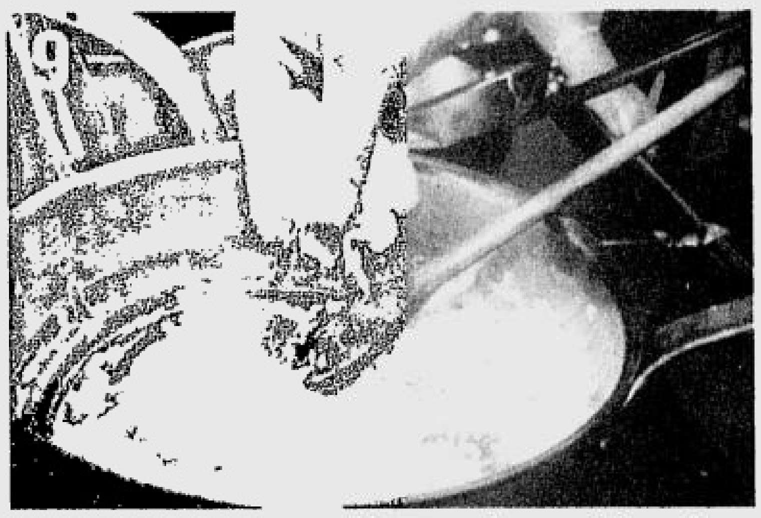
REMOVE the flesh from the shell, dice and set aside.



HALF cook lobster in fish stock over medium heat.



ADD cooked lobster meat.



FINISH with fresh butter, grated Parmesan cheese and chopped parsley before serving.

TRANSFER to a nice platter and serve immediately while still warm.

LOBSTER and Saffron Risotto

Healthy breakfast in luxurious setting

MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH smoked salmon as served by the Oak Room of the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center has become one of the establishment's breakfast attractions.

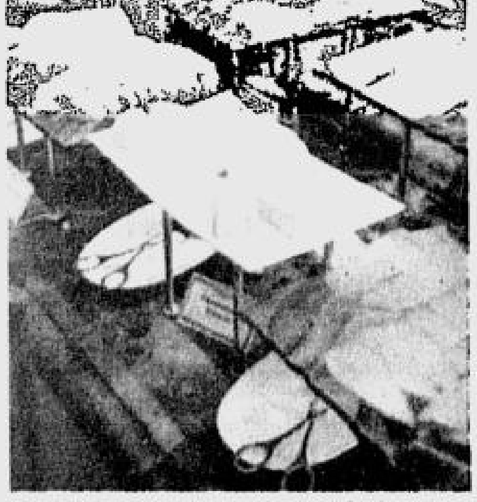
The fish is either thinly sliced and served on lightly toasted English muffin with hollandaise sauce or just by itself.

In addition, breakfast at Oakwood means, according to French executive chef, Jerome Cartailler, as many as 15 of the choicest fruits in season, 10 to 12 varieties of freshly baked bread, at least nine cereals with dried fruits and nuts, main entrees of 10 hot dishes, six cold cuts, cheese, rice or noodles and many more.

To maintain the quality of its buffet, Oakwood, the establishment on top of Glorietta 4 in Makati, uses only the freshest produce.

Breakfast in the luxury setting of Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, a flagship in Asia of the American-based Oakwood residences chain, costs P450+.

The Oakwood property is at the 6/L Ayala Center. Guests can park at the third basement parking level of the Ayala Center. An elevator leads straight to the sixth floor lobby of Oakwood.

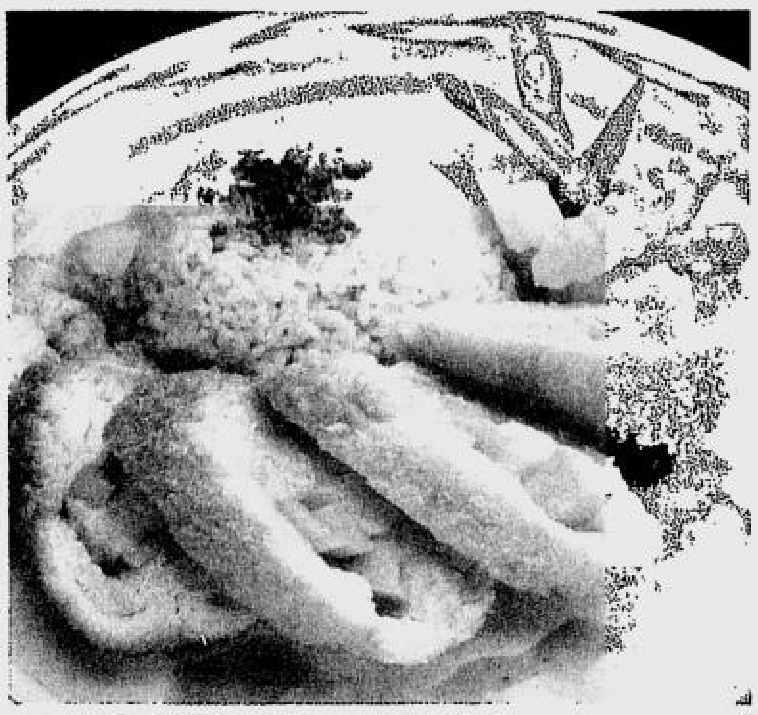


ONLY the freshest produce make it to Oakwood's popular morning buffet.

BREAKFAST at Oakwood Premier means as many as 15 choice fruits, 12 varieties of bread, 10 main dishes, nine cereals, six cold cuts, cheese, rice, noodles and many more.

MIXED Seafood in Garlic Sauce. A bowl of steamed rice with squid, shrimps, fish and vegetables in garlic-flavored sauce

Savory delights



CHICKEN Cordon Bleu with Cheese Sauce. Breaded chicken breast stuffed with cheese, ham, carrots and served with creamy cheese sauce, herbed rice and buttered vegetables

ROAST Beef with Mushroom. Tender choice cut of beef blended with red wine mushroom sauce

THE WELL-KNOWN Cravings restaurant offers three top-selling recipes from its long list of culinary treasures.

Chicken Cordon Bleu with Cheese Sauce

100 g deboned chicken breast fillet
10 g sweet ham
10 g cheddar cheese (stick)
1 pc egg
¼ c flour
½ c breadcrumbs
1 c oil for deep frying
1 c seasoned rice
¼ c brown sauce.
10 g carrots, sliced
10 g young corn, sliced
10 g turnips, sliced
10 g green beans, sliced
2 tbsp butter
onion leeks

Stuff chicken with ham and cheese then soak in egg then in flour. Repeat soaking the chicken in egg then lastly in breadcrumbs. Set aside for a while to let the breading set in. Deep fry then drain in paper towel.

For the buttered vegetables, sauté the vegetables in butter then set aside for a while. Cut the chicken in 6-8 pieces bias cut. Then pour sauce on top with the rice and vegetables on the side. Garnish with onion leeks on the side.

Roast Beef with Mushroom

½ c brown sauce
¼ c mushrooms
2 tbsp red wine
100 g beef
1 tbsp soy sauce
salt and pepper
1 tsp garlic
2 tsp onion
1 tbsp oil

Season beef with salt and pepper. Marinate in soy sauce with garlic and onion for about 30 minutes. Sear beef in oil. Then add marinade simmer until beef is tender. Set aside. Heat brown sauce then add red wine and mushrooms. Drizzle sauce over beef then serve with mashed potatoes.

Mixed Seafood in Garlic Sauce

¼ c squid rings
¼ c fish fillet
¼ c shrimps
1 tsp garlic
2 tsp onion
1 tbsp garlic chili oil
1 tbsp red bell pepper
1 tbsp green bell pepper
1 tsp soy sauce
Sauce:
1 tbsp oil
1 tsp garlic
2 tsp onion
¼ c tomatoes, sliced
2 tsp celery, chopped
¼ c tomato sauce
2 tbsp tomato paste
1 tbsp soy sauce
salt and pepper
½ tsp white wine
1 pc seafood cube
steamed rice

Sauté all ingredients for the sauce, season and taste then set aside. In a pan, heat oil and sauté seafood with garlic and onion. Add bell peppers, soy sauce and the sauce. Simmer for a while on top of rice.

Two adventurous specialties

FOUND only in the heart of Malate, Manila, Portico 1771's Italian-Oriental No Borders Cuisine is full of sunshine and freshness, a tribute to marvelous garden-fresh ingredients at their peak of flavor.

Savor Portico 1771's two adventurous specialties—the Smoked Salmon Tagliatelle and Spring Tofu. These dishes are sure to soothe your soul.

Smoked Salmon Tagliatelle

(Squid ink tagliatelle with white wine, tangy garlic cream and marinara sauce topped with smoked salmon)

15 ml olive oil
5 g garlic, brown
½ jig white wine, deglazed
2 tbsp chicken stock (ojo, tsp or tbsp?)
½ tbsp butter
90 g squid ink fettuccine pasta
salt and pepper to taste
1 oz white wine and garlic cream sauce
1 oz marinara sauce
40 g smoked salmon rosette
Chopped parsley
Basil, sprig

Sauté garlic in olive oil until golden brown. Deglaze with white wine until half. Add chicken stock and butter, then reduce by half. Blanch squid ink tagliatelle until al dente, then mix the pasta with sautéed garlic. Season with salt and pepper.

In a plate, mirror it with marinara sauce and garlic shallot cream sauce. Arrange the tagliatelle pasta on top of garlic cream sauce and marinara sauce. Add smoked salmon rosette on top of the pasta. Sprinkle sauces with chopped parsley. Garnish the smoked salmon with a sprig of basil.

Spring Tofu

(A touch of Portico 1771's oriental flavor—light yellow tofu omelet with spring onion tempura)

2 eggs
1 portion Japanese tofu
1 g spring onion
2 oz honey-ginger Sauce
2 pcs spring onion tempura

In a bowl, beat the eggs and season with salt and pepper. Add the cubed tofu and spring onion. Set aside. On a non-stick pan, heat a little oil then put in the egg-tofu mix, wait until bottom side sets. Flip the pan to cook the other side.

Portico 1771 by Chateau is located at 1771 M. Adriatico St. Malate, Manila. Call 5232063 or 5251073.

Cook your goose (liver)

From page D1

is a huge fatty liver that melts in your mouth. Yummy, yummy, yummy!

Better start enjoying it while you can. Talk has it that people fighting cruelty to animals are championing the rights of these birds!

Goose liver is available at Santi's and Terry's.

Here's a rather simple foie gras recipe. Should it intimidate you, you could always make a dash for the Prince Albert, Cirkulo, Uva, Tivoli or the Old Manila to satisfy your craving.

Pan-fried Foie Gras with honey

½ cup honey
zest of 1 orange
2 tbsp olive oil
1/3 c sliced shallots, caramelized
4 pcs dried figs, sliced
1/3 c port wine
juice of 1 orange
1 sprig of fresh tarragon
2 tsp sugar
¼ c balsamic vinegar
1-2 tsp butter
mangoes
salad greens
lemon juice
pepper
salt
foie gras

In a saucepan, put the olive oil then add the sliced shallots, caramelized. Put four pieces of sliced dried figs and the port wine. Wait for the mixture to thicken then add sugar and balsamic vinegar. Continue to thicken. Check for seasoning. Add about 2 tsp of butter to mixture and set aside.

Fruits:

In a heated saucepan, put the honey and butter with orange zest. Wait till the mixture melts. Glaze fruits with this mixture.

Slice foie gras 1 ½ inches thick and pan fry without oil. Wait until it changes color. Do not overcook.

Arrange salad greens on a platter. Combine lemon juice, salt and pepper, then drizzle into the greens. Put mixture of figs onto the salad greens then toasted French bread topped with foie gras.

Pour some honey with zest on foie gras then garnish with orange zest.

Do you have a good recipe for gindara/codfish Japanese style, with sweet sauce? Every time we cook this fish, it [comes out] ***malansa.***

MS F

First things first. I'd like to know if you use local or imported cod? Remember, local cod is torture! It doesn't punish just the eater, but the *lavandera* as well. It is a cheaper alternative to Xenical. [Regarding your problem] the only reason that comes to mind is the fish isn't fresh. Try to be a tad more careful in choosing your gindara.

Grilled Gindara

2 slices of gindara
Teriyaki sauce:
1 tbsp sesame oil
2 tsp grated ginger
¼ c soy sauce
¼ c rice wine
½ c sugar
1/3 c chopped garlic
2 tbsp sake

Bring to boil the sesame oil, grated ginger, soy sauce, rice wine, chopped garlic and sake. Set aside.

Brush griller with oil and butter. Grill gindara.

Next time will have more recipes and more tips. Till then, bon appetit!

E-mail the author at reggie1@skyinet.net

ENERGY FOR THE YUPPIE

EAT. SLEEP. Drink and be merry.

Insert a bare minimum of 40 hours of work a week, and this might well be the average young professional's mantra.

Today's go-getters slave away at the office, their routines peppered with meetings, presentations and deadly deadlines. In an effort to counterbalance this grueling pattern, yuppies embrace R & R with a vengeance.

This 180° turn has young professionals trooping to their weekend Meccas - the latest "It" bar, rural retreats, or the no-brainer mall gimmick.

Such a work-hard-play-hard existence requires effort, effectiveness, and energy, considering that the average male professional needs 2,750-kilocalories (units of energy) daily. On the flip side, the average career woman requires 1,900.

These energy requirements can be derived from the carbohydrates, proteins and fats found in food. However, this food energy can only be utilized through the powerful combination of vitamins C and B-complex.

Vitamin B-Complex acts as catalyst in converting sugars and carbohydrates into energy. They are converted into co-enzymes, which are high energy compounds used in the transfer of a variety of substances during energy-generating body processes. These processes include metabolism of carbohydrates, breakdown of fatty acids, and generation of glucose from glycogen.

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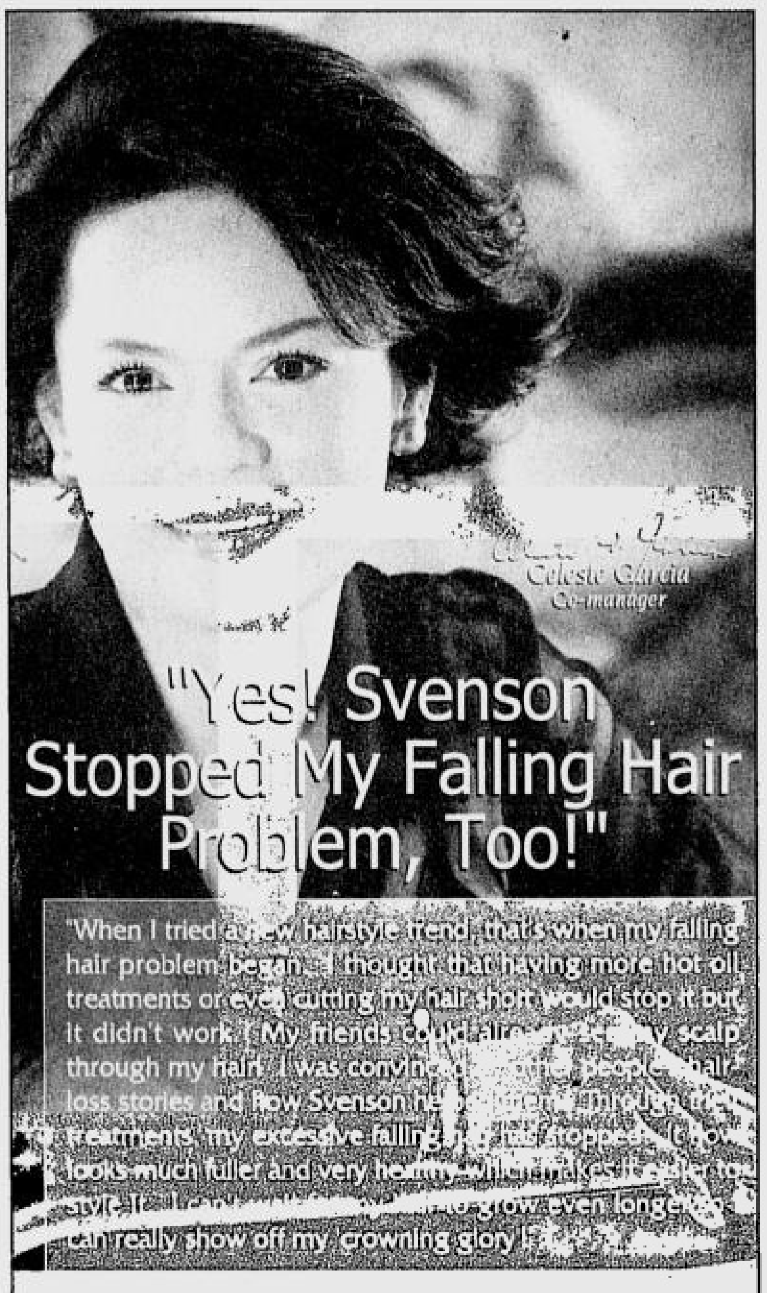
For the young urban professional who leads an extreme, vigorous, if not hedonistic lifestyle, ENERVON is a must. Eat. Sleep. Drink, work and be merry without the worry.

ADVT.

Holiday treats for gift-giving or starting a business


Celeste Garcia
Co-manager

"Yes! Svenson Stopped My Falling Hair Problem, Too!"

"When I tried a new hairstyle trend, that's when my falling hair problem began. I thought that having more hot oil treatments or even cutting my hair short would stop it but it didn't work. My friends could already [illegible] my scalp through my hair. I was convin[illegible] hair loss stories and how Svenson he[illegible] through [illegible] treatments, my excessive falling [illegible] stopped. [illegible] looks much fuller and very he[illegible] which makes it [illegible] style. I [illegible] grow even longer [illegible] can really show off my crowning glory!"

Woman AT Svenson

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

ONCE we are through with All Saints' Day, the next major occasion is Christmas. After Nov. 1, everything just happens too fast and, before we know it, Christmas Eve is knocking on our doors.

To help you prepare for the holidays, here are recipes that you can do either to start a small home-based business or as austerity measure. Making your own gifts will surely allow you to stretch a tight budget. Here we have carrot cake, brownies and *embutido*.

Carrot Cake

¼ c melted butter or margarine
½ c corn oil
2 whole eggs
1 ½ c grated carrots
½ c coarsely chopped walnuts or cashew
1 c white sugar
1 c sifted all-purpose flour
1 tsp sifted baking powder
1 tsp sifted baking soda
½ tsp fine salt
½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp ground all spice
¼ tsp ground cloves

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line the bottom of a 6-inch round baking pan or disposable aluminum pan with baking paper. Grease the sides with shortening. Dust with all-purpose flour and tap off excess. Set aside.

Pour the ingredients in a large mixing bowl in the order given above. Mix well until blended. Transfer the cake batter to the prepared baking pan. Bake for one hour or until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean.

Note: Cinnamon, all spice and cloves can be bought in the spice section of large groceries. These are normally beside black pepper.

Brownies

½ c butter or baker's margarine
4 oz/squares unsweetened chocolate
1 ½ c white sugar
3 whole eggs
¾ c + 2 tbsp sifted all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
¼ c chopped cashew nuts

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line an 8 x 8 x 2 inches square baking pan with aluminum foil, shiny side down. Set aside.

Melt the margarine and the chocolate together in a thick saucepan over low heat. Stir continuously with a wooden spoon. Remove from heat and allow to cool for 5 minutes.

In a large mixing bowl, using a wire whip or wooden spoon, beat the sugar and the eggs until blended. Pour in the chocolate mixture and beat until combined.

Stir in the flour and the baking powder. Transfer to the prepared baking pan and top with cashew nuts. Bake for 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

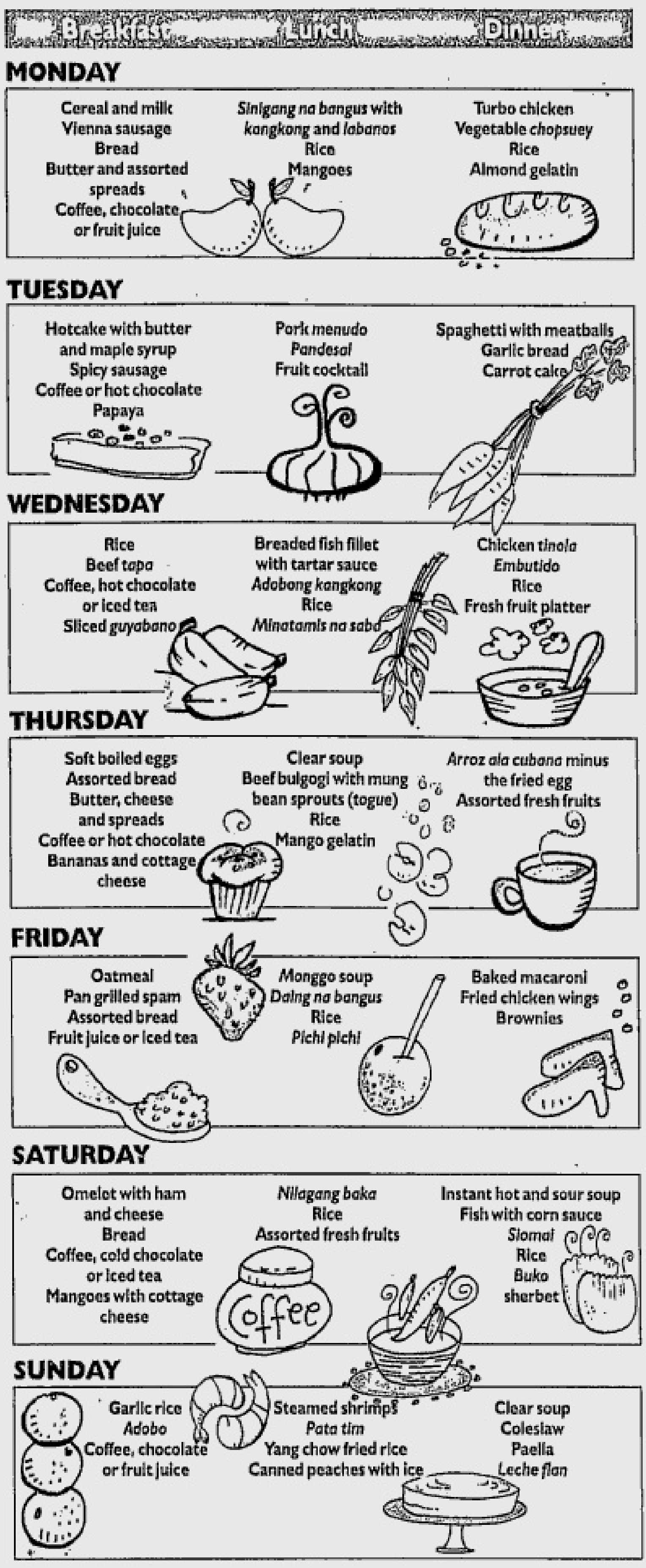
Embutido

1 kg ground pork
2 pcs chorizo Filipino, chopped
½ c chopped ham
2/3 c pickle relish
½ c raisins
1 c cubed cheddar cheese
½ c frozen green peas
black pepper to taste
1 tbsp liquid seasoning
3 whole eggs

Combine the ingredients for the *embutido* in a large mixing bowl. Divide into six equal portions. Form each portion into a log and then wrap individually in aluminum foil.

Steam for one hour.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking and baking lessons at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City and at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati. Call 7217735 or e-mail dorothycookingschool@yahoo.com



	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Cereal and milk Vienna sausage Bread Butter and assorted spreads Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	*Sinigang na bangus* with *kangkong* and *labanos* Rice Mangoes	Turbo chicken Vegetable *chopsuey* Rice Almond gelatin
TUESDAY	Hotcake with butter and maple syrup Spicy sausage Coffee or hot chocolate Papaya	Pork *menudo* *Pandesal* Fruit cocktail	Spaghetti with meatballs Garlic bread Carrot cake
WEDNESDAY	Rice Beef *tapa* Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea Sliced *guyabano*	Breaded fish fillet with tartar sauce *Adobong kangkong* Rice *Minatamis na saba*	Chicken *tinola* *Embutido* Rice Fresh fruit platter
THURSDAY	Soft boiled eggs Assorted bread Butter, cheese and spreads Coffee or hot chocolate Bananas and cottage cheese	Clear soup Beef bulgogi with mung bean sprouts (togue) Rice Mango gelatin	*Arroz ala cubana* minus the fried egg Assorted fresh fruits
FRIDAY	Oatmeal Pan grilled spam Assorted bread Fruit juice or iced tea	*Monggo soup* *Daing na bangus* Rice *Pichi pichi*	Baked macaroni Fried chicken wings Brownies
SATURDAY	Omelet with ham and cheese Bread Coffee, cold chocolate or iced tea Mangoes with cottage cheese	*Nilagang baka* Rice Assorted fresh fruits	Instant hot and sour soup Fish with corn sauce *Siomai* Rice *Buko* sherbet
SUNDAY	Garlic rice *Adobo* Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	Steamed shrimps *Pata tim* Yang chow fried rice Canned peaches with ice	Clear soup Coleslaw Paella *Leche flan*

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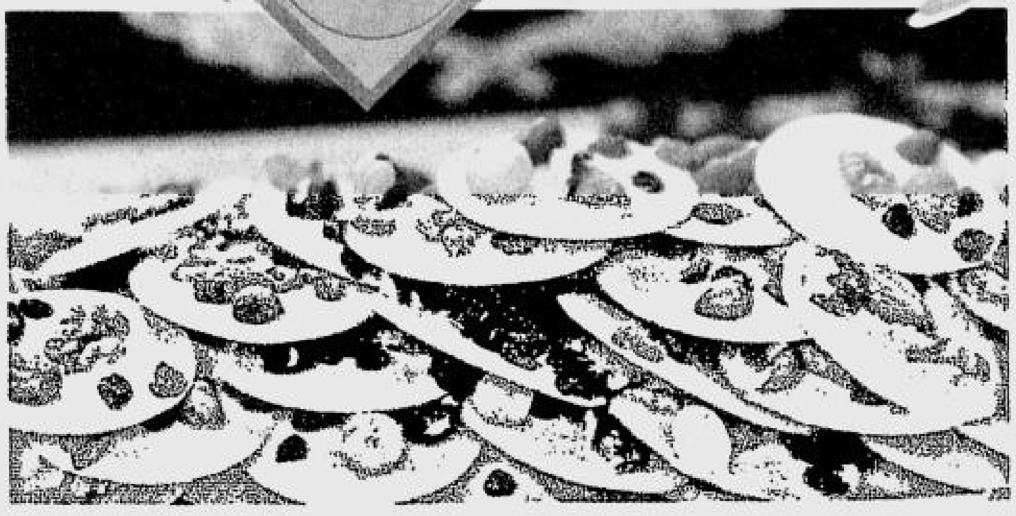
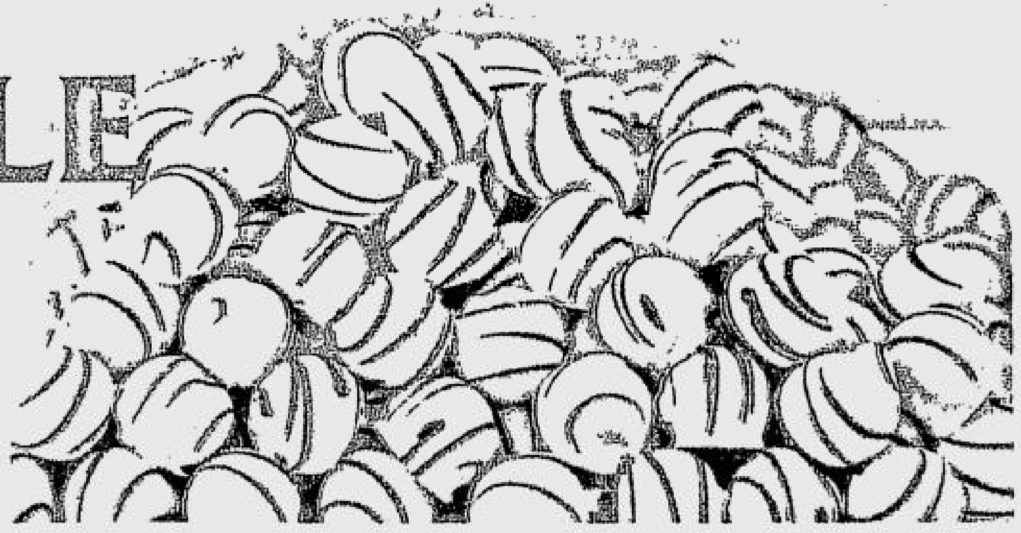


FILIPINOS, says franchise owner Vanessa Figueroa, go nuts over nuts.



BELGIAN pralines, bite-size treats that taste as good as they look

Belgian beauty

Leonidas, one of Europe's best-tasting but relatively affordable chocolates, is finally here

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FORGET restrictive diets, trash the rules and indulge just this once. After all, the sweetest things in life are not always those that melt your heart, but those that whet your sweet tooth and literally make you drool.

Leonidas, a distinguished chocolate name in Belgium since 1913, is finally here. Flown fresh weekly from their home country are all the pralines, truffles, ganache and butter creams (in milk, dark or white variety) that choco-loving Pinoys could ask for.

"The chocolate you're eating right now is the same chocolate made a few days ago in Brussels. Everything is fresh," says Leonidas' young franchise owner Vanessa D. Figueroa.

It was when she studied in Paris that Figueroa discovered Leonidas. She recalls dropping by a store every day to buy fresh

BELGIAN/ E2

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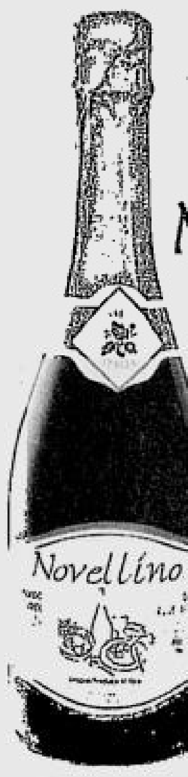
NOVEMBER 06 THURSDAY



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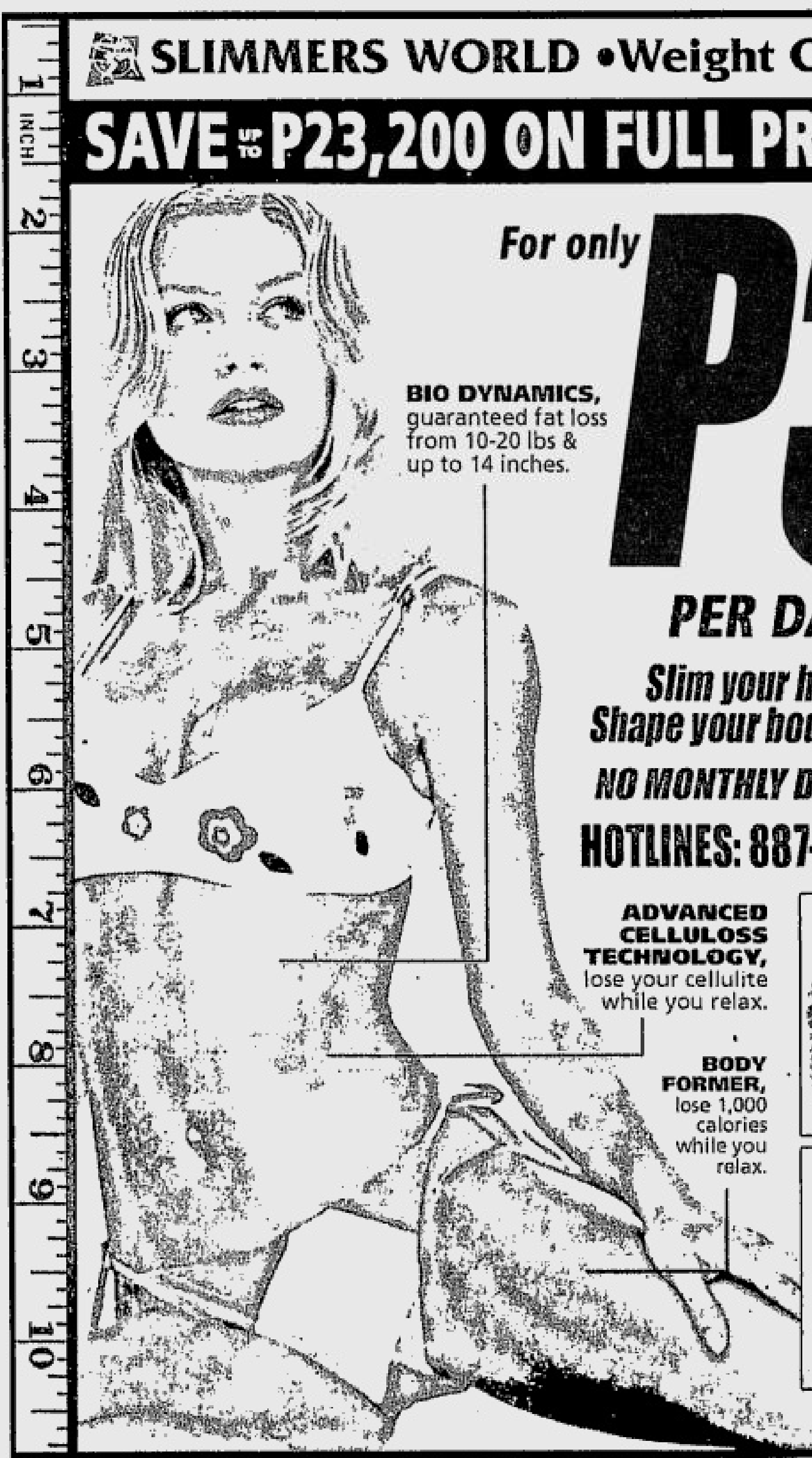

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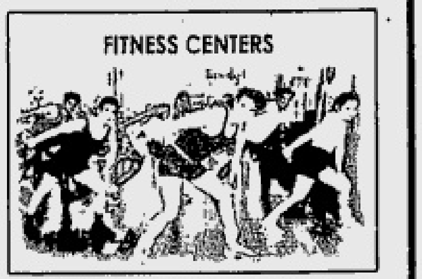

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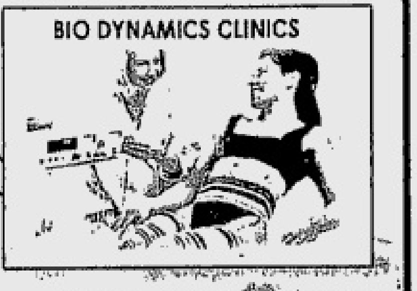

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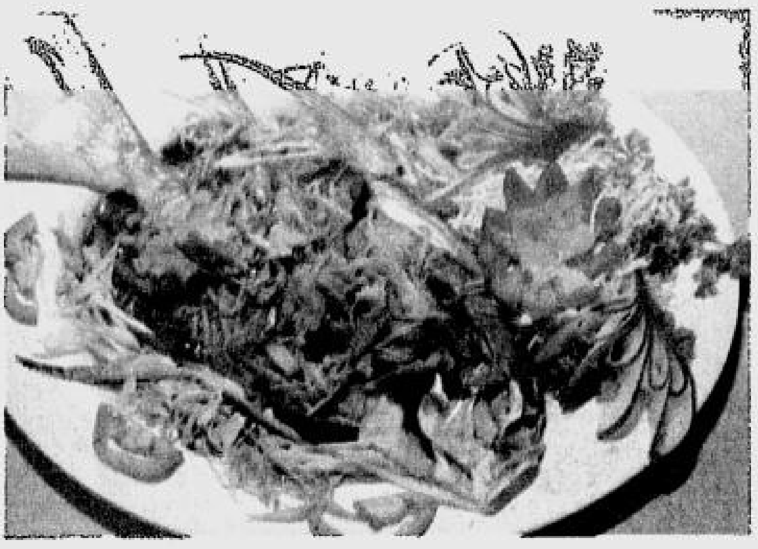
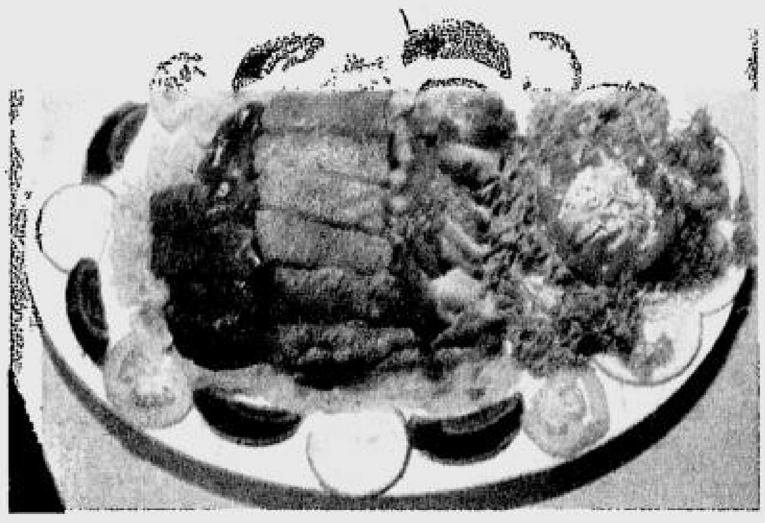
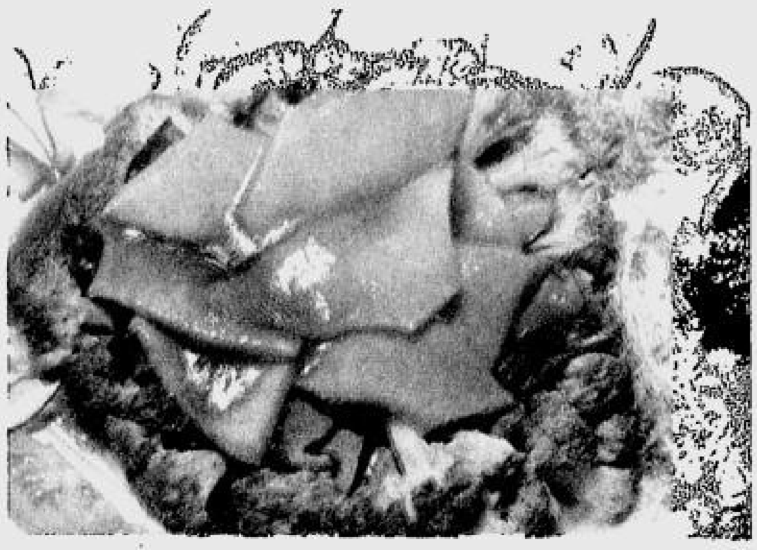


WHITE Pampano with special sauce



SUCKLING pig combination



BEEF with mushroom and broccoli

Seafood served in style

WILLIAM Liong, operations manager, Seafood Wharf restaurant

Text by Belle V. Bondoc
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

FOR many people, a good restaurant means ingenious chefs who know how to make the most of available ingredients to come up with an impressive menu that boasts of quality at reasonable prices.

In that sense, Seafood Wharf would make the cut for many foodies.

"I have been in the food business even before I came here [the Philippines] and running a restaurant is not really alien to me," says William Liong, part-time chef and overall operations manager of Seafood Wharf.

"Some people can be very meticulous about food. They only want the freshest and the finest ingredients there are," he adds.

Liong mans the kitchen operations at Seafood Wharf (tel. 5363522) together with two Chinese chefs and four locals. He sources and plans menus, manages employees which number about 180.

Fresh catch

The seafood restaurant is located at the Army and Navy Club Compound, South Road, Luneta Park, Manila. It has an air-conditioned function room that can accommodate 90-100 guests. The veranda overlooking Manila Bay can accommodate up to 500 guests. Liong says the location makes Seafood Wharf accessible to people working in Manila.

A swimming pool at the center of the restaurant gives the place a more relaxing ambience. And while customers enjoy good food, a musical group serenades them with soothing music to make the experience even more pleasant.

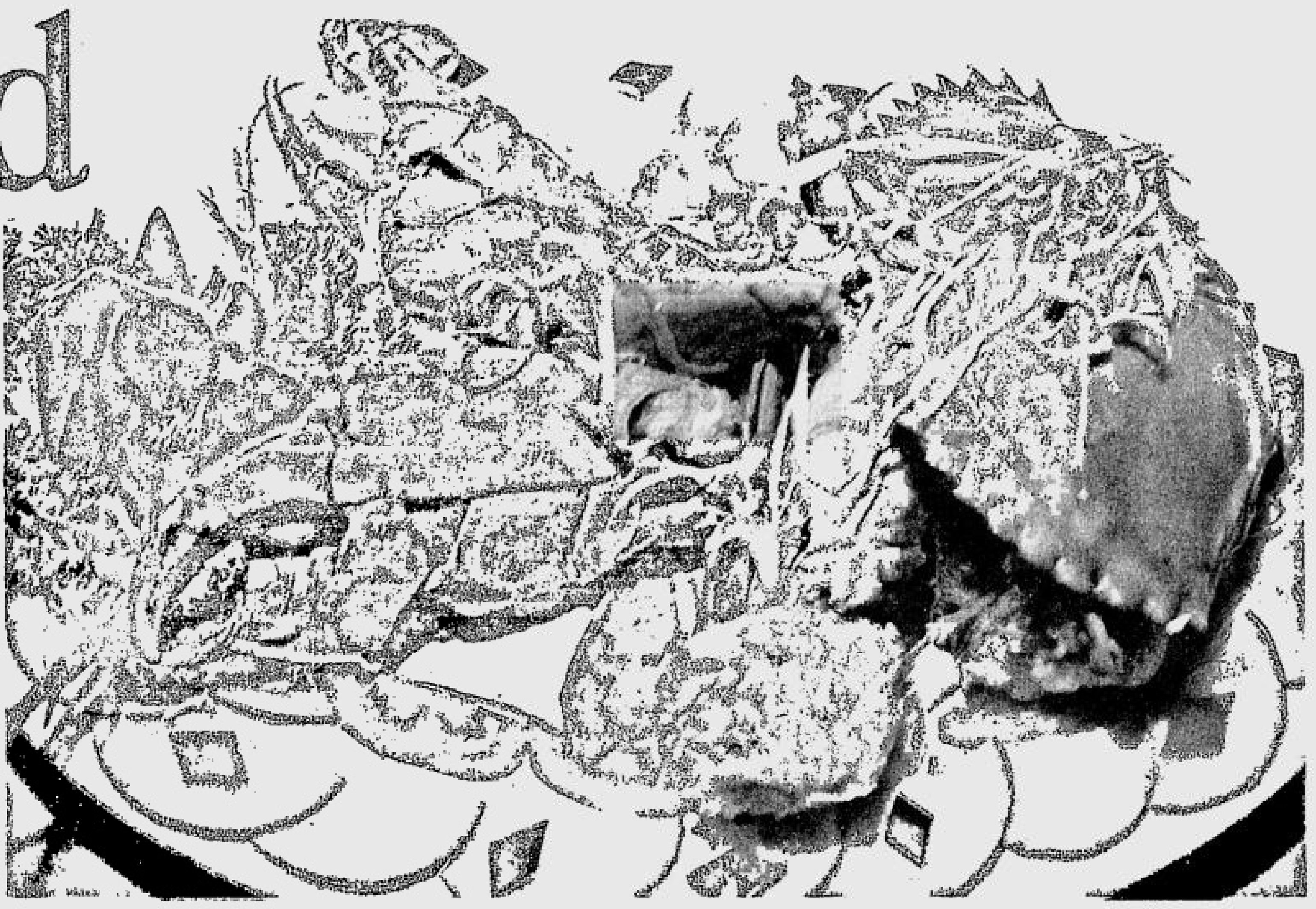
The restaurant, whose clientele are Filipino-Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese, has been serving fresh seafood catch for more than five years now.

Liong says it's not easy, "but we always make sure that live items are delivered fresh."

Live seafood items, sourced from Palawan, Davao, Zamboanga and General Santos, are delivered fresh to the restaurant's private loading docks.

While diners are assured of a steady supply of fresh seafood, what keeps them returning to the place is the price. Unlike in other places, diners don't have to pay an arm and a leg for their favorite seafood dishes.

> At Seafood Wharf, diners don't have to pay an arm and a leg for their favorite dishes



CRABS with Oriental Sauce

At Seafood Wharf, customers choose from transparent cages what they want—fish, crab, shellfish, etc. The restaurant's chefs will then prepare their choice of dishes.

As a rule, the chefs personally attend to dining guests. "We make them feel like VIPs," says Liong. "When you're in a restaurant business there has to be a lot of personal touch."

No MSG

When preparing seafood dishes, Liong focuses on combinations and presentations. "I lean toward anything experimental."

For him, a good sauce seals the deal. His forte is to experiment with different dressing or "*sawsawan*." He continues to create new mixes for the restaurant's various dishes.

"People, especially seafood lovers, are fond of '*sawsawan*,'" says Liong. "*Mas sumasarap ang kain nila kapag may kakaibang timpla at sawsawan*," he notes.

The restaurant does not use MSG or vetsin and uses mainly locally produced ingredients.

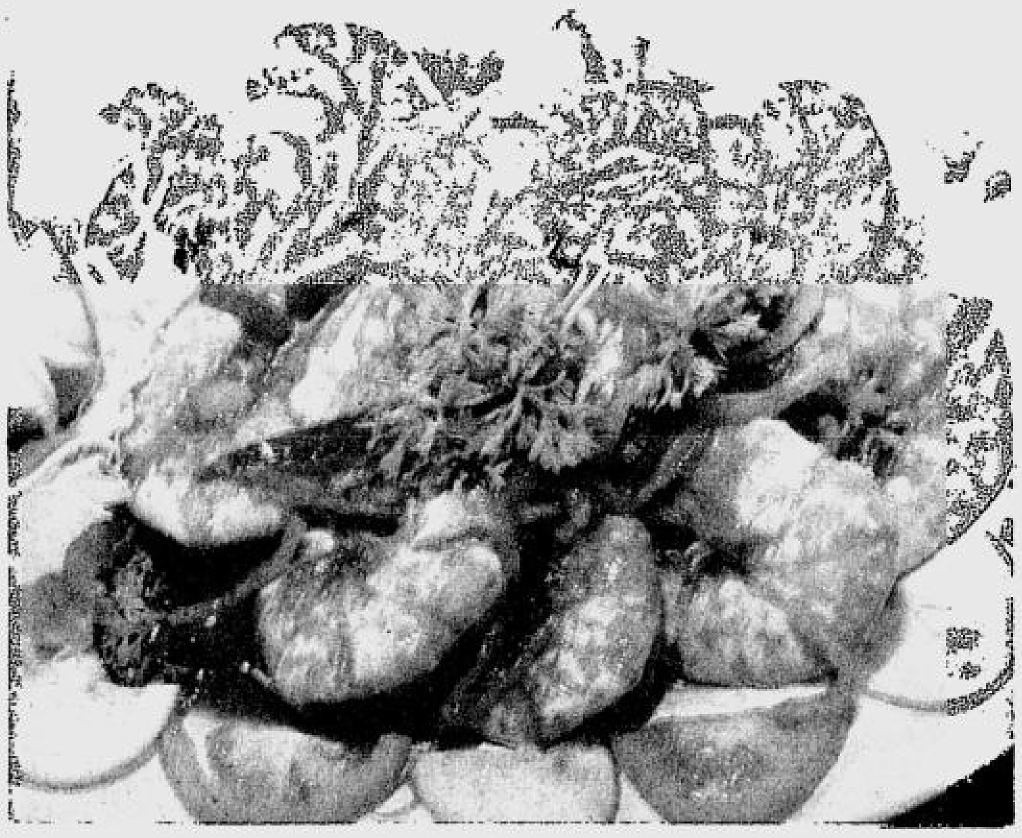
"One has to find ways to keep on top and it is important to know that the customers really want healthy yet budget-friendly dishes," says Liong.

The restaurant's extensive menu is constantly evolving depending on the tastes of customers. Topping the list of current house specialties are Crabs in Sweet and Chili Sauce; Crabs with Oriental Sauce; Steamed Fish with Special Sauce, an exotic dish that melts in your mouth; to-die-for Prawns with special sauce; Suckling Pig Combination Platter, a must-try appetizer consisting of *asado*, century egg and seaweeds; Tempura-style Asohos Fish; the classic Halabos na Hipon; top-seller Steamed Suahe; Beef with mushroom and broccoli—with abalone and mushroom sauteed in oyster sauce; and the perfectly done Steamed Lapu-lapu, which is personally recommended by Liong.

Live items like crabs are weighed and priced starting at P95 per 100 g (depending on whether female, male or *bakla*). Prices of other dishes are usually P100-P150 per order, with each serving big enough for six to eight persons. Rock Lobster is priced at P120 per order, *kuhol* at P100, *halaan* at P120, *tahong* at P120, Chinese bamboo shell at P120, scallop with shell at P120, oysters with shell (from Hong Kong) at P150.

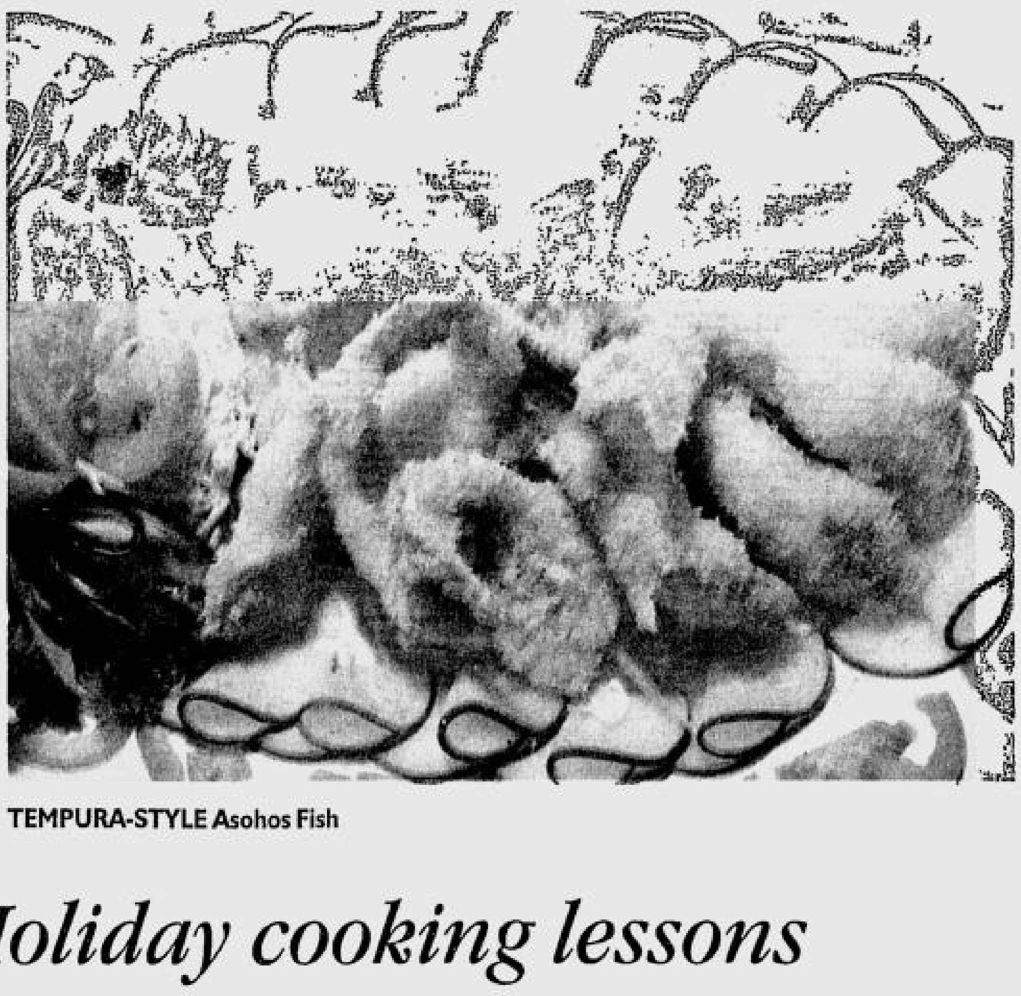
The restaurant is boosting its breakfasts, 7-11 a.m., with dim sum (P40 up) and sandwiches. Merienda is available 2-5 p.m.

Email the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph



PRAWNS with special sauce

HALABOS na hipon



TEMPURA-STYLE Asohos Fish

Holiday cooking lessons

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts, located at the 3/F, Bon Appetit, Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong offers cooking classes.

Nov. 7 (Friday)—Carrot Cakes: Delicious Carrot, Carrot Walnut, Carrot Orange, Carrot Banana, Carrot Raisin, Carrot Apple

Nov. 10 (Monday)—Christmas Roasts and side dishes: Christmas Goose with berry sauce and chestnut cream, Brined Roast Turkey with fruit sauce and wild rice stuffing, Prime Rib with mixed pepper crust with wine gravy, Roast Leg of Lamb with fruit and mint chutney. Side dishes: Caviar Cocktail, Lobster and Sweet Potato soup, Salad of Foie Gras seared in maple syrup, Roasted Vegetables in squash baskets, *Buche de* Noel (Christmas Log), Christmas Champagne Punch—Special Class P2,800 + ingredients

Nov. 12 (Wednesday, morning class)—Cochinillo: Spanish Lechon and side dishes. Soup, Salad, Dessert; (afternoon class)—Pizza and Pasta Combinations: Pasta Grattata with Pizza Margherita, Pizza y Pasta Tricolore, Mixed Chorizo Sausage Pasta with Sauerkraut Pizza, Mixed Seafood Pasta with Clam Pizza

Nov. 14 (Friday)—December in Provence: Fougasse (Flat Bread from Provence), Cassoulet of Chicken Provençal, Rose and Rosemary Honey Stewed Lamb with Gateau of vegetables and fresh tomatoes, Sea Bass and Calamare with a Beurre Blanc, Provençal Herb and Lemon Roasted Chicken, Classic Provençal Stew, Fresh Fruits with Sabayon

Monday and Friday classes start at 9 a.m.; Wednesday morning class—9 a.m.-12 p.m., afternoon class—1:30-4:30 p.m.

Reservations would be most appreciated. Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

More unhappy car owners

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

IT'S pretty obvious from the letters we've been receiving that car owners don't know where they can seek relief for unsatisfactory car purchases and repairs. Here are some more complaints:

Angelito Cayanan of Pamplona, Las Piñas, said he brought his Toyota car, with plate number UFT-970, to Toyota-Alabang Inc. Feb. 7 for a wash-over painting job and repair of oil leak. He was not satisfied with the service, he said, when the car was released on March 11. He paid P42,240.63. Among his complaints was the oil leak.

The car was again brought to the shop for engine repair on June 26. It was released Aug. 11. Total charges amounted to P36.770.36. After that, the car was repaired twice for engine trouble. Cayanan said he strongly believed the cause of all the problems was the inadvertent use of a grinding compound when the cylinder head was brought to the shop for re-facing. "My car is now at a gasoline station, unoperational, and for which I have to pay storage fee."

Cayanan is asking the station manager to "check the cylinder head and engine that may have been damaged as a result of the grinding compound contamination, free of charge."

We called Toyota-Alabang's customer service office and got the following report: After a quality check on the repair, no more leak was found. Three months later, and on several instances after that, the car was brought to the company for other repairs. Finally, on Aug. 25, the Toyota foreman assigned to the vehicle found a significant amount of grinding compound inside the cylinder head which, he said, could only have been caused "externally," and not in the shop.

"Such warranty only covers the work performed by our dealership. Since it appears that damage to the vehicle was caused externally, we are constrained to deny Cayanan's request for us to check his vehicle's cylinder head and engine free of charge," the service manager wrote.

Excise tax exemption

J.P. Cruz Jr. was hesitant to buy a Nissan X-Trail 250 (a sports utility vehicle or SUV) last August because he read a newspaper item that the new excise tax could reduce the prices of some vehicles, including SUV. He decided eventually to buy one at the current price when a company executive warned him that prices would go up in September.

Cruz found out, however, that instead of going up, the price was reduced in September by P250,000 because SUVs were exempted from the excise tax. Cruz suspected that the dealers of Nissan knew early on that the excise tax would exempt SUVs. Cruz is asking the Nissan executives for a rebate.

We called up Nissan and was told by a spokesperson that company officials did not know, nor did they expect, that SUVs would be exempted from the excise tax in September. Be that as it may, the company will be sending a formal letter to Cruz. We can almost predict the content of the formal letter.

In and out of shop

Lillibeth V. Legasto said she bought a Kia Sedona from Kia Signet on Nov. 21, 2002. The car has been in and out of the company's repair shop for white smoke belching. "Surprisingly, every time my car went to their testing center, it passed the smoke emission tests. But if you look inside my car, it has soot. And the wall of my garage is also blackened by soot," Legasto complained. She was eventually advised by the repair shop attendant to write a formal letter of complaint to the national head of customer service and warranty of Columbia Motors, local company representative of Kia.

We tried to get in touch with the chief executive officer of the company and the customer service officer to inquire about the status of Legasto's complaint. Unfortunately, the CEO was in Japan and the customer service officer was always unavailable and did not return our call.

Last resort

This is the advice of the consumer welfare office of the Department of Trade and Industry. If all else fail in spite of the letters of demand to the car company and service repair shop, the car owner should file a formal complaint with the DTI-National Capital Region for mediation. Send complaints to the Consumer Welfare Division, Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, 2/F Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Call 8904932 or 8965740.

Praises for Honda

This feel-good letter from a satisfied customer of Honda Cars-Pasig is like a breath of fresh air.

Dante Santiago of Marikina (dante.e.santiago@accenture. com) wrote: "I was happy with my Honda City 2000 VTEC when I bought it last October 2000 until I heard an annoying sound at the back. I brought it back to the dealer, Honda Cars-Pasig, where I was told that the car had to be diagnosed and repaired at the HCPI plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. They provided me with a service car until I got back my repaired car.

When the sound recurred two months later, Honda-Pasig again readily provided me with a service vehicle while the car was being repaired. They did more. HCPI even fixed a dent or "dimple" on my car at no extra cost. According to a person at HCPI, it was their way of saying sorry for the problem with the car."

E-mail the author at mgiron @i-manila.com.ph

Belgian . . .

From page E1

chocolates on her way to school. "It's one of the best-tasting chocolates there is, but not the most expensive."

Although Leonidas is not cheap (at P350/100 g), it has been well-received despite zero advertising, says Figueroa. In fact, she says some clients drop by every day to buy 500 g, while others purchase a kilo every week without fail. From a first shipment of 275 kg, she now orders about 600 kg weekly.

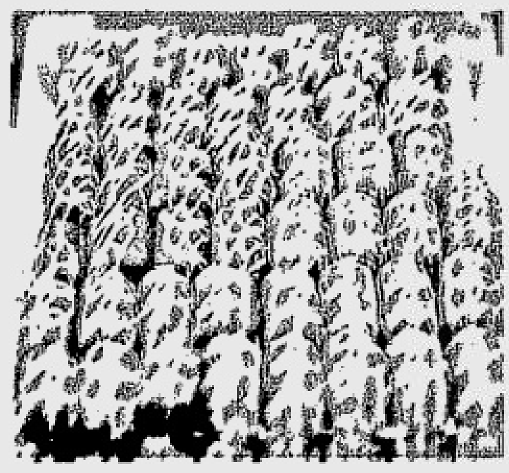
Branches are thus sprouting one after another. After Leonidas' first branch opened at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport July this year, two more opened merely two weeks apart: at the G/F Glorietta 4, Makati City and the 2/F The Podium, ADB Avenue, Pasig City. Its fourth shop just opened at the G/F Robinsons Place Manila. Figueroa plans to open two more branches before yearend.

Over 80 chocolate variants are available, and about 70 kinds are displayed in the shop, including a generous line of delicately creamy sugar-free confections. "You have to try it. The products speak for themselves," says Figueroa.

Truffles are called "perles" for their pearl-like shape, filled with either champagne, cacao, Irish cream, pistachio, rum, whisky, Amaretto or orange.

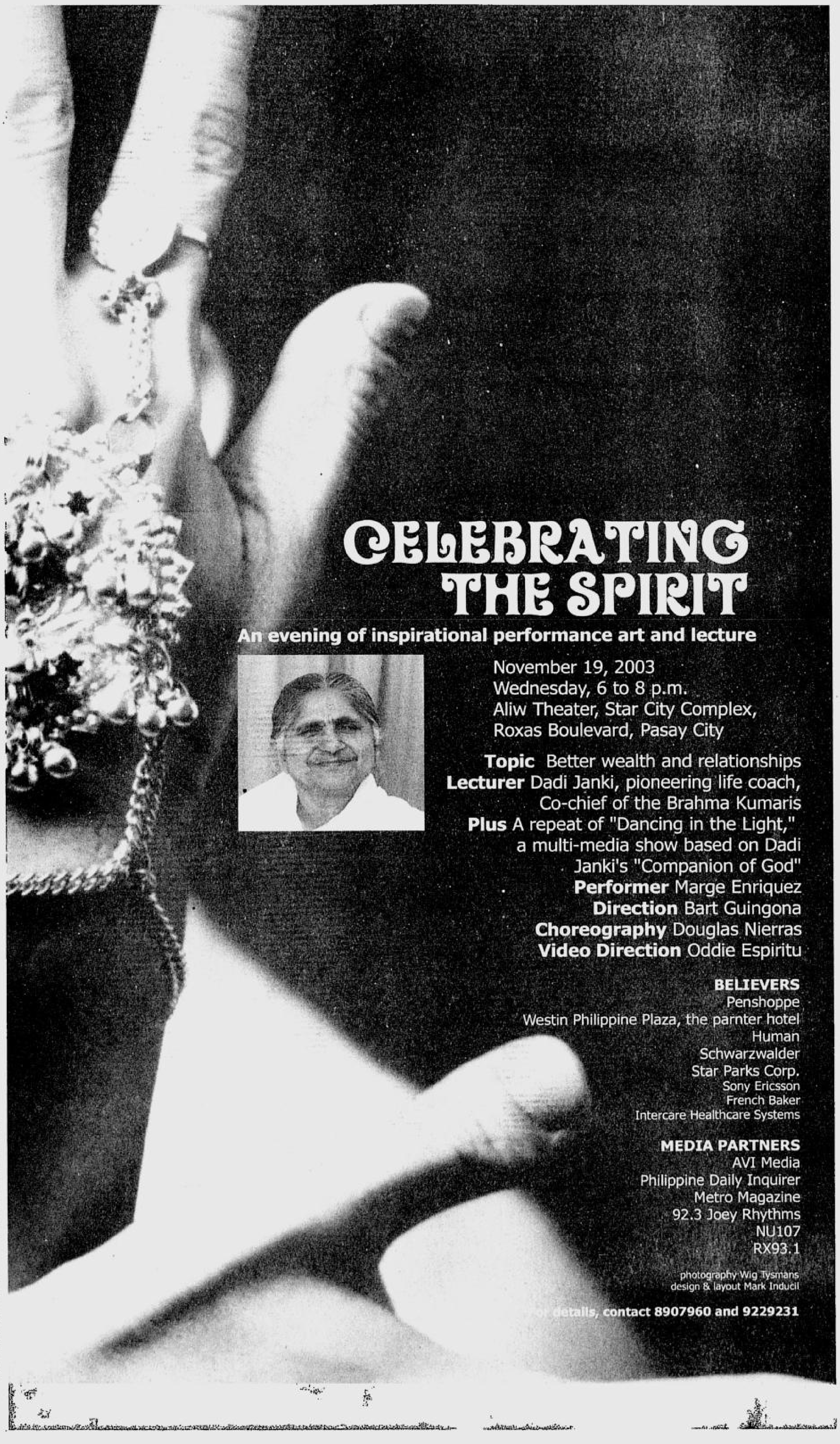
Pralines are a blend of chocolate and hazelnut, sometimes enhanced with flavoring such as brown sugar. Butter creams are rich chocolate with creamy, mousse-like texture fillings of either vanilla, strawberry or pistachio.

The all-time bestseller is Manon Café— fresh butter cream coffee-flavored filling with roasted hazelnut. But don't worry, there are solid chocolates, too, for those who shun fillings.



THE SUGAR-FREE variety is just as delicately rich and creamy.

TAKE your pick from over 70 kinds of chocolates.



CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT

An evening of inspirational performance art and lecture

November 19, 2003
Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m.
Aliw Theater, Star City Complex,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Topic Better wealth and relationships
Lecturer Dadi Janki, pioneering life coach, Co-chief of the Brahma Kumaris
Plus A repeat of "Dancing in the Light," a multi-media show based on Dadi Janki's "Companion of God"
Performer Marge Enriquez
Direction Bart Guingona
Choreography Douglas Nierras
Video Direction Oddie Espiritu

BELIEVERS
Penshoppe
Westin Philippine Plaza, the parnter hotel
Human
Schwarzwalder
Star Parks Corp.
Sony Ericsson
French Baker
Intercare Healthcare Systems

MEDIA PARTNERS
AVI Media
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Metro Magazine
92.3 Joey Rhythms
NU107
RX93.1

photography Wig Tysmans
design & layout Mark Inducil

For details, contact 8907960 and 9229231

Home specialties with an Italian-American twist

DINING OUT

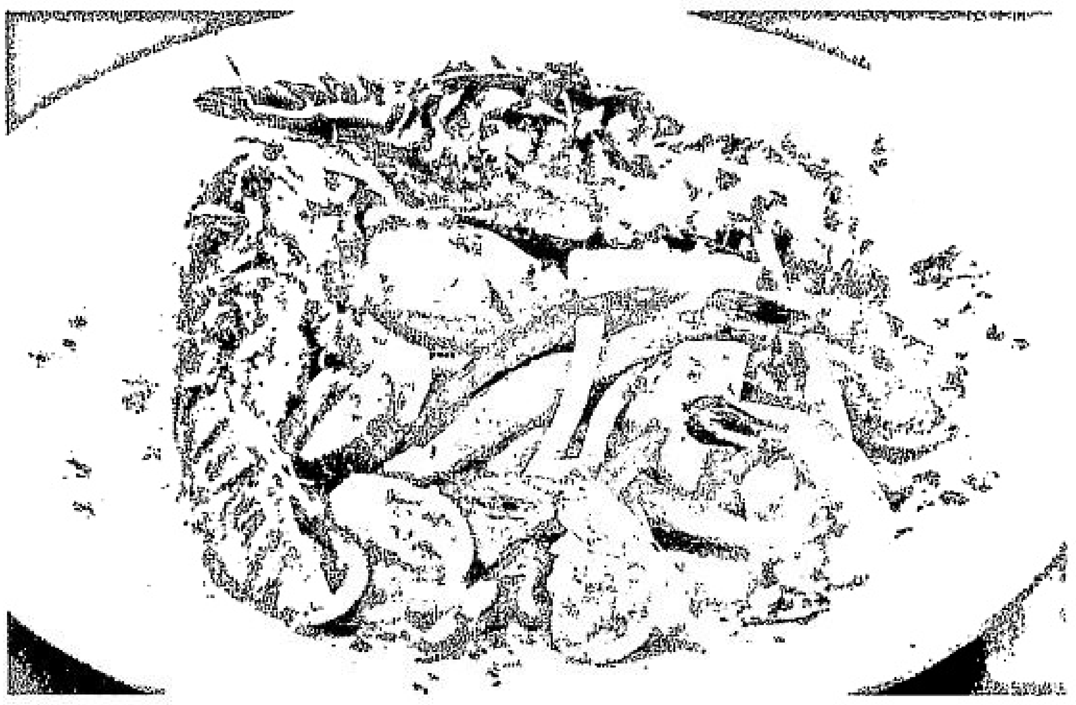
ITALIANNI'S Restaurant has come up with Specialita della Casa that boasts of rich flavors reminiscent of holiday home cooking with an Italian-American twist. Developed by Bistro Group corporate chef John Cu-Unijeng, the Christmas selection includes Tuscan Lamb Chops, Grilled Lobster, Grilled Shrimp and Pomelo Salad, Romano Crusted Baby Lapu-lapu Fillet, and Smoked Salmon Pizza with Dill Cream Sauce. The Specialita della Casa is available at Italianni's Greenbelt 2, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center and SM City Bicutan.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Shang Palace presents Szechuan specialties until Nov. 16. The a la carte menu features braised superior shark's fin with shredded Szechuan chicken, baked king prawn with garlic and chili sauce, sautéed sliced chicken with green and red pepper, and Kong Po shrimp. Call 8400884.

VIA Mare Oyster Bar at Greenbelt 3 presents executive lunch offerings like Baked Fish served on a bed of mashed potatoes, Pork Ribs Adobo, Beef al Pistou, Bistek Tagalo, Beef Stew, Boneless Pork Chop, Tiramisu, Crepe Tortoni, Decadent Chocolate, Mango Torte and Caramel Custard. Call 7574021.

DI Mark's Pizza Garden offers Menlo Special Pizza, Don Arturo, Pizza Pro, Taco Pizza, Mad Scramble and Big 22. Aside from pizza, Di Mark's offers pasta, French fries, chicken croquetas, fried mushrooms with garlic, fried Italian sausage slices, beef tapa slices, mozzarella fritters, chicken wings, hero sandwiches, desserts and beverages. Call 4040683, 5255354, 7235008 or 7236008.

BRAVO! Ristorante Italiano, located at Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila, and Festival Mall, Alabang, features Italian Champagne Special, Bring 5 Pay 4 and Late Happy Hour promos. Call 5638066 or 5636255.


ITALIANNI'S Grilled Lobster

PIZZA Hut presents Sicilian Pizza, blended with Italian herbs in a rectangular crust that's fluffy on the inside and crunchy on the outside. The crust is baked with basil, garlic, oregano and secret herbs.

BELLEVUE Hotel's Cafe d' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant offers the Carving Cravings lunch buffet, which includes soup, salads, cold cuts, pasta, desserts and Japanese sushi. Call 7718181.

KOMIKS Café features chicken stuffed with mango in curry creme sauce, bangus belly with tarragon sauce and chocnut fondue. Komiks Café is located at On Courtyard, Orosa corner Nakpil Streets, Malate, Manila. Call 5262547.

VIA Mare's Spicy Chicken Steak

Search for top recipes

GLAD, a leading brand of kitchen wraps and bags, and Ferna, the food ingredient specialist, invite everyone to join "A Taste of My Recipe" contest.

Divided into two categories—main dish and dessert—participants must use a combination of Glad (Cling Wrap, Foil, Bake Paper, Oven Bags, Oven Ware) and Ferna products (Gelatine, Food Colors, Food Flavors, Baking Ingredients) in their recipes.

Contestants can enter personally authored or customized recipes in any or both categories.

Culinary expert and television host Heny Sison, along with co-hosts Jackie Ang and Jane Paredes, will judge the entries based on creativity, taste, ease of preparation and presentation.

Two weekly winners (one in each category) will be selected in every episode of "A Taste of Life," a TV cooking show. Weekly winners will compete for the major prizes of the finals on Jan. 25, 2004.

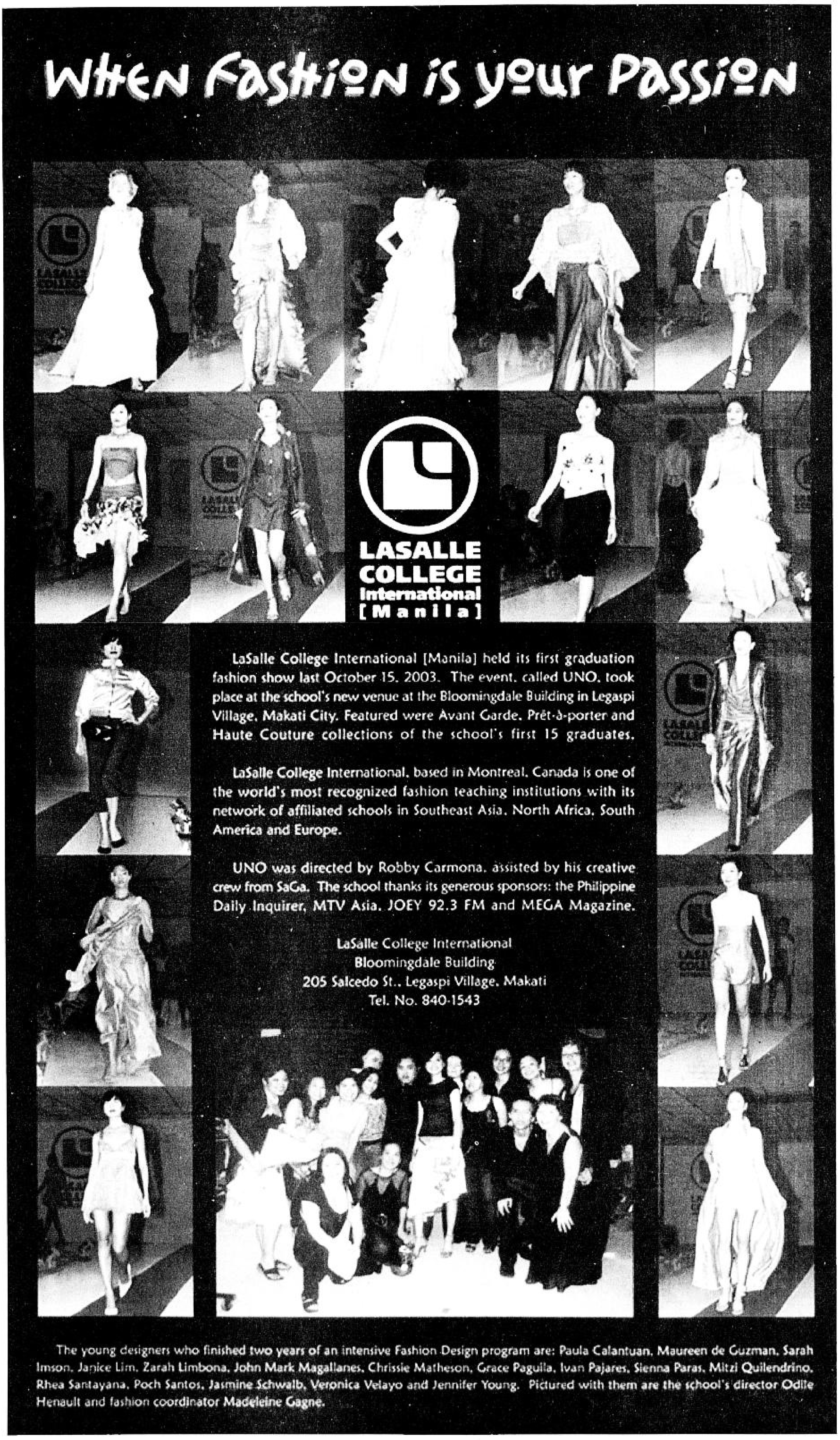
Weekly prizes include Glad and Ferna products and premium items. In the finals, three major prizes will be given away in each category. First prize winner in the main dish category will receive a La Germania Oven, P5,000 worth of gift certificates from Heny Sison's School of Cake Decorating and Baking, gift pack from Glad, and Ferna Jacket. In the dessert category, the top prize will be a 1.98 cubic meter (7 cu. ft.) National refrigerator, P3,000 worth of gift certificates from Heny Sison's School of Cake Decorating and Baking, Glad gift pack and Ferna jacket.

Recipe entries must be typed on a letter-sized bond/white paper (8 ½ x 11). Two copies of the recipe must be submitted along with details about the contestant and the recipe, an 8R-sized color photo of the finished product, and an empty pack or label of Glad and Ferna products used in the recipe.

Contestants can send separately as many recipes as they want. All entries must be in English.

An entry must be placed in a short brown envelope and sent or submitted to any of the following: Clorox International Phils Inc. (Glad), 15/F, JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center; Ferna Corporation, 6 Bernardo St., San Rafael, Navotas, Metro Manila, 1485; or IBC 13 ("A Taste of Life"), G/F, Operations Building, IBC 13 Broadcast, City, Diliman, Quezon City.

Promo period is until January 2004.


When Fashion is your Passion

LASALLE COLLEGE International [Manila]

LaSalle College International [Manila] held its first graduation fashion show last October 15, 2003. The event, called UNO, took place at the school's new venue at the Bloomingdale Building in Legaspi Village, Makati City. Featured were Avant Garde, Prêt-à-porter and Haute Couture collections of the school's first 15 graduates.

LaSalle College International, based in Montreal, Canada is one of the world's most recognized fashion teaching institutions with its network of affiliated schools in Southeast Asia, North Africa, South America and Europe.

UNO was directed by Robby Carmona, assisted by his creative crew from SaGa. The school thanks its generous sponsors: the Philippine Daily Inquirer, MTV Asia, JOEY 92.3 FM and MEGA Magazine.

LaSalle College International
Bloomingdale Building
205 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati
Tel. No. 840-1543

The young designers who finished two years of an intensive Fashion Design program are: Paula Calantuan, Maureen de Guzman, Sarah Imson, Janice Lim, Zarah Limbona, John Mark Magallanes, Chrissie Matheson, Grace Paguila, Ivan Pajares, Sienna Paras, Mitzi Quilendrino, Rhea Santayana, Poch Santos, Jasmine Schwalb, Veronica Velayo and Jennifer Young. Pictured with them are the school's director Odile Henault and fashion coordinator Madeleine Gagne.